2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File
JAN 12 1895

No. 2041 JAN 12 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 1st, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 12 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Imperial decree as to
concubines.

Synopsis
Copy sent as tending to
describe China as it now is.

One enclosure.

No 2041

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 1st, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
enclose a copy of an Imperial
decree which appeared yesterday
in the Peking Gazette.
I send it to you as a
curiosity of literature as
illustrating the condition of
China at the present time.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

1/2041

Enclosure:

Copy of Imperial Deed.

A Decree promulgated by His Majesty, the Emperor at the instance of the Empress Dowager.

The rules governing the household of Our Court are explicitly stated, and those living within the precincts of the Palace are not permitted to interfere in the affairs of Court.

The concubines of the 3rd rank, Chin and Chên, on account of their modest character and virtuous conduct were, as an extra mark of Imperial favor, elevated to their [there] present rank.

Recently, however, they have got into the practice of being airy, have outstepped the bounds of propriety and on repeated occasions have made appeals to Us in matters of Court business.

We are seriously concerned about such conduct and are afraid that such practices may continue to grow. We have considered the

matter

matter with the Empress Dawager and if these concubines are not made an example of it will be impossible to prevent or guard against such practices in the future.

Let the concubines Chin and Chin be degraded or reduced in rank to a Kuei Jen, concubines of the 5th rank. as a light form of punishment, so that due respect and regard may be shown in future to affairs of Our Court.

Published in Manuscript-
Gazette November 27th, 1894.

Dip

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File
JAN 16 1895

Secretary of State.
JAN 15 1895

No 2042.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 1st, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 16 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Negotiations for peace.

Synopsis
Sends telegram of Japan
and China's reply.

One enclosure.

No 2042

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 1st, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I received Nov. 27th the following telegram:

"Please communicate
"the following to the
"Chinese Emperor from
"the Japanese Minister
"for Foreign Affairs:
"The proposals made
"by China through the

"the United States
"Representative at
"Peking and Tokio
"cannot be accepted
"by Japan as a basis
"for peace in the
"present circumstances.
"China does not appear
"to be in a mood in
"which she is likely to
"accede to a satisfactory
"basis for peace, but if
"she is really solicitous
"for peace and will
"appoint a properly
"qualified Ambassador
"Extraordinary and
"Minister Plenipotentiary
for the purpose
Japan

"Japan will upon the
"meeting of appointed
"plenipotentiaries of the
"two Countries declare
"conditions upon which
"Japan will consent to
"a termination of hostilities.
"You are requested by
"the Japanese Minister for
"Foreign Affairs to keep
"these communications secret
"and confidential."

Dun.

The 28th instant I had an interview with the Yamên at which all the Ministers were present. I gave them a copy in Chinese of the above telegram. I stated that if they declined

the

the proposition to appoint plenipotentiaries to treat they would simply say so. If on the other hand they accepted the proposal they should be authorize me to wire that China would appoint one or more ambassadors, as might be agreed on, to treat for peace; that she desired to know when and where they could meet the plenipotentiaries of Japan; and that pending negotiations she asked an armistice on such terms as might be agreed on by the two Countries.

The Ministers took the matter under advisement and informed me

me that they would write me. It seemed impossible to make the Ministers understand my position. They continually assumed that I was a mediator, insisted on my writing to Japan to find out what was meant by the statement that China was not in the mood to treat, and very plainly intimated that they wanted me to take charge of and conduct all the negotiations. They even asserted that their Minister at Washington had wired that the President had consented that I should act for them as commissioner to make

peace

peace. I informed them many
times that the President was
perfectly willing to mediate if
both countries consented, but
Japan had refused to accept
mediation in any quarter, and
Japan had declared that China
should make direct ventures
for peace and if made through
this Legation they would be
considered and that ventures
had been made by China,
the answer of Japan lying now
before them, and that it was
idle to talk about mediation.
I stated also that as to my
acting as minister or commissioner
for China it was impossible as
long as I remained Minister

of

of the United States.
I left them convinced somewhat against their will that they must themselves answer the telegram sent by Japan.
A minister of the Yamên came to see me the evening of the 28th and the ground gone over in the morning was all gone over again. &c.
As the result of these interviews I received from the Yamên in the afternoon of the 29th instant the communication of which a translation is enclosed.
1/2042
I then sent the following telegram in cipher:

Peking November 29th, 1894.

American Minister Tokio.

Please

"Please deliver the
"following message:
"Secretary for Foreign
"Affairs of Japan:
"China requests me to
"say that in your
"cipher telegram Japan
"does not state what
"she would regard
"as a satisfactory basis
"for peace, hence China
"has no way of forming
"any conjecture as to
"the views of Japan.
"It is, therefore, difficult
"for China to appoint an
"Ambassador to discuss
"the question of peace.
"China hopes that Japan
will

"will indicate in a
"general way the
"questions for the two
"Countries to discuss,
"in order that China
"may take action.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Enclosure:
The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby
November 29th, 1894.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

November 29, 1894.

Your Excellency:

Yesterday your Excellency was good enough to call at the Yamên and present to us the confidential telegram which you had received from Japan.

We are deeply grateful to your Excellency for the obliging spirit you have manifested.

The two proposals made by China, your Excellency, were good enough, at China's request, to make known to Japan, thus making evident to our minds that your Excellency cherishes a feeling of friendship towards China. But in the telegram received from Japan it does not state what Japan would regard as a satisfactory basis

basis for peace, hence China cannot conjecture and it is therefore difficult to appoint an Ambassador to discuss the question.

We therefore beg to request your Excellency to again telegraph and make enquiry from Japan.

It is to be hoped that in a general way the questions to be discussed by the two powers will be telegraphed by Japan to your Excellency who in turn will transmit them to us.

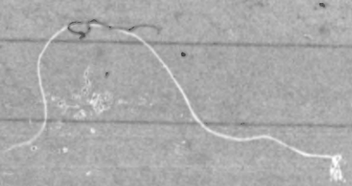
Then it will be convenient for China to minutely and thoroughly consider the action to be taken.

China will not be unmindful for the kindly feeling manifested by the United States Government and Your Excellency in trying to arrange the present difficulties.

Cards of Prince Kung

and

Cling and Ministers with
compliments.



2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 12 1895

No. 2043.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 1st, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 12 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Collisions at sea.

Synopsis.
Treasury Circular sent to
Yamen.

No 2043.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 1, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Department's despatch No 958 of Oct. 15th last relating to collisions at sea and to inform you that I have transmitted to the Tsungli Yamen the copy of the circular of the Treasury Department therein enclosed

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Charles Denby

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 14 1895

No. 2044.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 3, 1894

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Received Jan'y 15.

Subject:
Gunpowder and machinery dispatches of 1893.

Synopsis.
Minister asks their publication in Foreign Relations 1894.

Jan 14. 1895.

We can answer, selection already made, and necessarily limited. This volumious correspondence left out

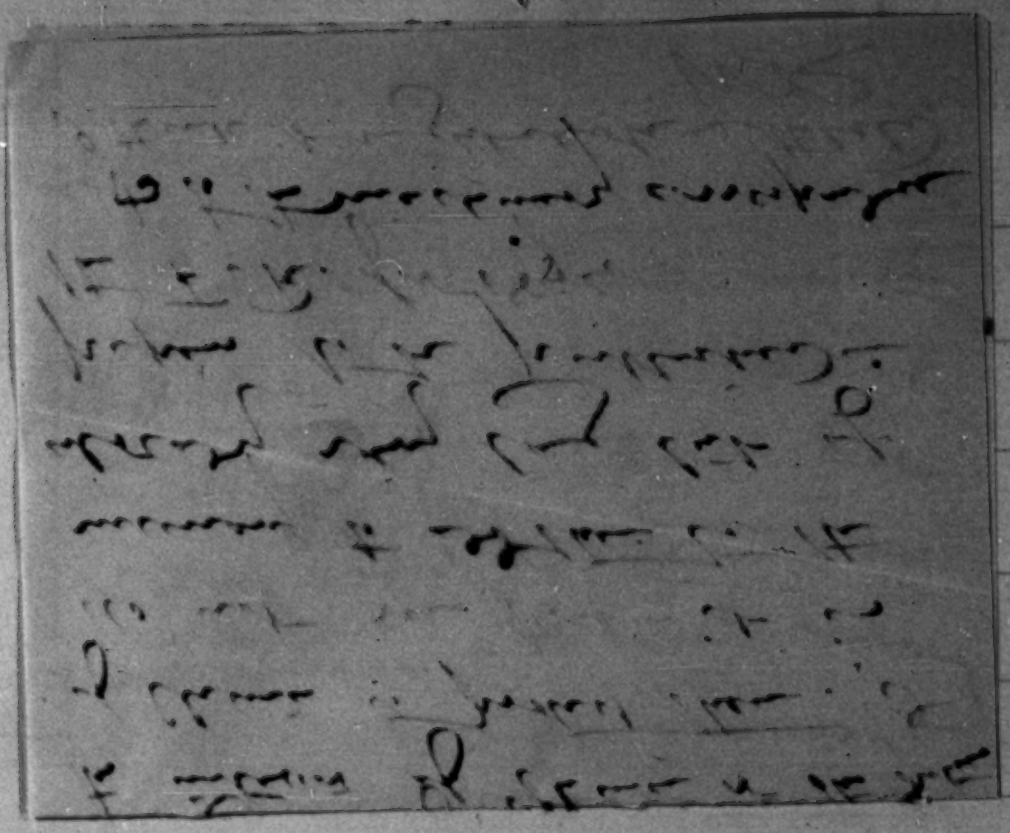
Mr Adee.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
JAN 12 1895

I have just read over the despatches referred to concerning the Sung-pu murder. I see nothing new in them — no new theory advanced concerning the rights of foreigners in the interior of China or the duty of China to protect them. I do not see that it is necessary to add them to the already very long list of papers to be published in the F. R. for 1894.

As to the machinery correspondence I think it might also be withheld.

W. R.



2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
JAN 12 1895

Mr. Rockhill:

How about these?

The Spuyten correspondence was in the interest of the Swedish govt. I see no objection to its publication

The machinery correspondence was on behalf of the combined diplomatic corps. I do not remember that we ever took up the question at our own.

A L

No. 2044.

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 3, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to suggest that if it be possible to do so the despatches sent from this Legation during the year 1893 relating to the Bungpu murder cases and to the right of foreigners to import machinery into China be published in the Foreign Relations for 1894.

I have

These were the two most important questions treated in 1893 but no allusion is made to them in the Foreign Relations of that year.

The papers on the Bungpu murders discussed the whole subject of treatment of foreigners in the interior, and those on the importation of machinery involved the most important commercial question of the day.

The dispatches relating to the Bungpu murders were the following.

No. 1721 August 11, 1893
" 1725 " 21, 1893
" 1730 September 2, 1893
" 1735 " 19, 1893
No. 1759

No 1759 November 17, 1893.

Those relating to the importation of machinery were the following:

No 1715 July 24, 1893.
" 1720 August 10, 1893.
" 1729 " 30, 1893
" 1734 September 19, 1893
" 1749 October 23, 1893.
" 1761 November 20, 1893
" 1766 December 11, 1893.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 12 1895

No 2045

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 4, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Peace Negotiations

Synopsis.
Confirms telegram from
Department.

No 2045

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 4, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram as follows:

"December 2, 1894.

"Appointment Imperial

"Envoy seems necessary

to peace."

This telegram was received the third Instant at 5:30 P.M.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 27 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Dip

Peking. cipher.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

Dec 5, 1894

Gresham
Washington

Treaty ought to have reached Washington seventeenth ultimo. December second Japan again refused to declare conditions until China appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to treat. I urged early appointment. China considers question will probably answer today.

Denby

JAN 18

No. 2046.

Legation of the United States

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Peking, December 5, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegram as to ratified treaty with U. S. and peace negotiations with Japan.

No 2046.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 5, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date.

"Treaty ought have
"reached London Seventeenth
"Ultimo.
"December second Japan
"again refused to declare
"conditions until China
"appointed Minister
plenipotentiary

) omit

"plenipotentiary to treat.
"I urged an early
"appointment. China
"-considers question. China
"will probably answer
"to-day."
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 12 1895

No 2047

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 5, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Received Jany 14.

Subject
New Treaty.

Synopsis
Confirms telegram.
Explains how treaty sent.

One enclosure.

No 2047.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 5, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of yesterday as follows:

"Telegraph report China's
"explanation delay in
"consummation Treaty"

On receiving your former telegram on this subject I enquired of the Yamen the whereabouts of the treaty.

Late

1/2047

Late on the 4th Instant I received the despatch of which a copy is enclosed, from which it appears that the treaty was sent from Shanghai for London October 6th.

The fifth I wired you "treaty ought have reached London 19th ultimo" - see my despatch No 2046 of to-day.

I will wire any information that may be sent from London.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

See Yamen to Mr. Denby December 4, 1894.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

December 4, 1894.

Your Excellency,

Yesterday your Excellency called at the Yamên and stated that you had received a telegram from the Honorable Secretary of State, wherein he asked an explanation of the delay of the arrival of the ratified treaty in Washington.

In reply we have the honor to inform your Excellency that this treaty was handed to the Inspector General of Customs for transmission to its destination.—

We sent one of the secretaries to make enquiries from Sir Robert Hart, and he stated that the treaty was sent from Tientsin on the 29rd September last, for Shanghai, and on the 6th October it was despatched by the English mail for London. It should

have

have reached London about
the 17th November. If nothing
has happened in the
transmission it should about
this time have reached Washington.
The Inspector General of Customs
will telegraph tomorrow morning
to London, enquiring the day
and by what steamer the
treaty was despatched for
Washington, and on receiving
a wire in reply he will repeat
the same to the Yamen which
will be duly transmitted to
Your Excellency.

In the meantime we send this
note in reply to your Excellency
and will thank you to communicate
the same for the information
of the Honorable Secretary of
State.

Cards of Ministers with
compliments.

1039

Tel. Tsungli Yamen
December 8, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
DEC 27 1894
STATE

File for the present
Cfpid

Gresham
Washington

Taotai Shanghai Arsenal
Proclamation too long to
wire. Abstract as follows:
Rewards for arrest
Japanese spy taels hundred
Chinese spy fifty; for informa-
tion as to whereabouts Japanese
spy forty Chinese twenty
for wiping small boat illicitly
engaged five hundred
War vessel ten thousands:
Destroying war vessel
eight thousands. For
every prisoner fifty: for
head every Japanese soldier
taken in battle fifty. Cannot
furnish him evidence as to
squabbles. Chargé d'affaires on
leave. Much mits thanks.

Denby

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
DEC 27 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Telegram - cipher

Peking December 8, 1894.

Denby

Washington

China still considering appointment Minister Plenipotentiary. China will probably appoint in four days.

Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 16 1895

Secretary of State.
JAN 15 1895

No 2048

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RECD.
JAN 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 8, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 16 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Peace negotiations

Synopsis
Telegram from Japan. Interview with Yamên. China considering question of appointment of plenipotentiary.

No. 2048

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 8, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that on the second day of this month I received from the American Minister at Tokio the following telegram:

"Tokio, December 2, 1894.

"American Minister Peking:

"The following is the "reply of the Japanese "Government to your cipher telegram

"telegram of November 30th:
"It seems from the message
"of the United States
"Minister at Peking that
"the Chinese Government
"are still unsettled as to
"whether she will sue
"for peace or not.
"It was not Japan but
"China which asked for
"termination of hostilities.
"Therefore Japan must
"repeat that only upon
"the meeting of the
"Plenipotentiaries appointed
"from among properly
"qualified high officials
"summoned by the two
"powers the conditions
of

"of peace could be declared
"by Japan. If that is
"unacceptable to China
"then the matter must end."

Dun.

On receiving this despatch I arranged as soon as possible to meet the Tsungli Yamên. The Yamên received me the third Instant at 2½ oclock P.M. All the members were present. I handed to the Yamên a translation in Chinese of the above telegram. Great discussion ensued. Every member talked. The most extraordinary propositions were advanced. I was asked again and again whether I could not in some way find out

out what Japan wanted. I was told if we designate a Plenipotentiary we lose your services. I was asked whether I would still continue to advise them after a plenipotentiary was named, and how long the armistice would be, and where the plenipotentiaries would meet, and I was told to write directly in my own name to Japan to find out what she wanted. The question of the good will of the United States was gone over again and again, and the inevitable treaty of 1858 was produced and dilated on.

Were it not that the crisis for

for China is terrible and far reaching the interview would have been laughable. I write with freedom hoping that secrecy will be observed by the U.S. Department.

I told the Yamen finally that there remained but two courses: One was a direct refusal to appoint an Envoy to treat for peace, and the other to notify Japan that an envoy would be appointed. I submitted to the Yamen in Chinese the following paper:

"The Minister of the United
"States at Peking is is
"authorized and requested
"to telegraph the following:

United

"United States Minister
"at Tokio:
"Please deliver the following:
"Minister of State for
"Foreign Affairs of Japan:
"China exceedingly regrets
"that Japan has not
"treated her advances in
"the candid spirit in
"which they were made.
"Nevertheless under its
"existing circumstances
"China finds it necessary
"to accede to the
"proposition of Japan
"to appoint plenipotentiaries
"to treat for peace.
"China desires to know
"how many of its
plenipotentiaries

"plenipotentiaries she should
"appoint and when and
"where the plenipotentiaries'
"of the two countries will
"meet to discharge their
"high functions."

I took occasion to deliver some sentences on the general question involved. I said that if a nation finds that she is outmatched and that she cannot continue war with hopes of success, her duty to her people is to make peace. I pointed out that the war would now go on at the expense of China, and while I wished to leave the Yamên perfectly free to carry on war or make peace still

still it was my duty, as they consulted me as an adviser, to say that unless they hoped to gain great successes in the future it would be better to make peace. I could see no hope that China could recover sufficiently to wage a successful war without untold wretchedness and misery to its people.

I stated further that it seemed perhaps better for China that the exact conditions for peace should not be defined in the preliminary negotiations. If such conditions were stated and thereupon China appointed plenipotentiaries, she would be in

in some sense bound by the taxes stated, where if no taxes were stated she would be free to terminate the negotiations whenever she pleased. In such case war would go on.
This view seemed to strike them and probably controlled their action.

I beg to say here <u>confidentially</u> and <u>not for publication</u> that the ignorance and helplessness of these people pass all comprehension. International Law is a sealed book to them. They know absolutely nothing. They know nothing of foreign methods & foreign countries. A species of

adroitness

adroitness of which they avail themselves is not at all useful in the great crisis which confronts them. They know nothing of such diplomacy as war demands.

My position in regard to them is very peculiar. Understanding that my Government favors peace my effort has been to bring about that result, but I am always confronted with the assertion of the excessive friendliness of the United States, and with a piteous and helpless reliance which makes me an adviser when in truth I am only an intermediary between the two Governments.

The

The Yamên took the matter under advisement and said thier determination would be communicated to me.

On receiving your telegram of the second Instant wherein you stated that the appointment of a plenipotentiary seemed necessary for peace, I transmitted the substance thereof to the Yamên.

For several days I received no communication from the Yamên. I learnt incidentally that Chang Ing Huan, a mentor of the Yamên and former minister to the United States, had gone to Tientsin. Of course he went thither to

consult

consult Li Hung Chang.
Li had been stripped of all
his dignities except the
Vice-royalty of Chihli.
My inference was that the
Government now turned to Li
to induce him to act as
plenipotentiary to treat for peace.
In many respects this
appointment would be a
good one. It would carry
more weight with Japan
and the world at large
than any other. The danger
is that Li is too old to
properly discharge the
onerous duties of the position,
and that he will surround
himself with the same set
of

of parasites and interested advisers who have brought suspicion and discredit on him.

The 7th instant a Secretary from the Yamên informed me that China was still considering the proposition to appoint a plenipotentiary, that the Yamên had received my despatch informing them that you approved of such appointment and that one would be appointed in three a four days.

I wired you the 8th instant as follows:

"China still considering
"appointment of minister
"plenipotentiary. China
will

"will probably appoint in
"four days".
I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Dip

No 2049. Asks no file

DIPLOMATIC BUR
JAN 18 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 10, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Confirms telegram relating to Taotai's proclamation and Japanese spies.

№ 2049.

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 10, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the over leaf a translation of my cipher despatch to you of the 8th instant relating to the Proclamation of the Taotai of the Shanghai Arsenal and the two Japanese who were charged with being spies.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Copy of telegram sent.

Gresham,

Washington.

December 8th, 1894.

"Taotai Shanghai Arsenal

"Proclamation too long to

"wire. Abstract as follows:—

"Rewards: for arrest of

"Japanese spy tails

"hundred; for information

"as to whereabouts Japanese

"spy forty; Chinese spy

"twenty; for seizing small

"boat illicitly engaged

"five hundred; destroying

"war vessel eight thousand;

for

"for every prisoner
"fifty; for head every
"Japanese soldier taken
"in battle fifty; cannot
"furnish here evidence
"as to spies. Chargé
"d'Affaires on leave.
"Must write Shanghai.

Donby

GIP
recd by mail

No 2050

DIPLOMATIC BU
JAN 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Acknowledgment of dispatches.

No 2050.

Legation of the United States.
Peking. December 10, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

No 960 of October 20, 1894.
" 961 " " " "
" 962 " " " "
" 963 " " 23, 1894
" 964 " " 29, "
" 965 " " 30, "
" 966 " " " "

9

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Consular Bureau

No. 2051.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 19 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Acknowledging telegram.

No 2051.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the over leaf a copy of the telegram received from you on the 8th instant relative to an advertisement mentioned in Legation's despatch No 1951 September 4th.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Copy of telegram received.

Washington, December 7, 1894.

Denby, Peking.

"Can you telegraph
"me advertisement
"mentioned in number
"1951 September 4th."

Grisham.

Recd & Filed

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 19 1895

No 2052.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Acknowledging telegram.

No 2052

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the over leaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 6th instant asking evidence as to treatment of Japanese spies.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Copy of telegram received.

Washington 6th December 1894.

Derby,

Minister Peking.

"What evidence Viceroy
"Nanking demanded is
"Taotai Shanghai why
"heads two spies not sent
"him?

"What evidence prizes
"offered for Japanese heads?
"See former despatch No.
"1949. What evidence that
"two spies were tortured?"

Gresham.

Slip

No 2059. √ Desp. No. 71 Pg 5

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAP [illegible]

Secretary of State.
JAN 22 1895

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State,

Subject.
Treatment of spies.

Synopsis
Suggestion that International
Law does not sanction the
death penalty in every case.

Look at that!

It seems that Col Darby
Sims has gone no further
than asking that de-
portations should be
restricted to only an Class
person — It is not just
Class what is meant by "less more
dangerous Cases" If
"A Japanese is shown
to be guilty of offering
Chinese bribes ought to punish
If Comm Col. D. has right
to demand proof upon
which bribe Servant was

№ 2059.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 10. 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In further acknowledgment of your despatch № 963 of October 23* last to the late Chargé d'Affaires in which you say: "The Department is unable to concur in your recommendation that Japanese convicted of having acted as spies in China should simply be deported." I beg leave to

* See Foreign Relations, 1894, p. 119

to make the following remarks:
In obedience to this intimation
I shall not, of course, seek to
induce China to make any
general rule as to punishment
of spies. It is my duty, however,
to say that before I received
the above mentioned despatch
I had already stated to a
trusty agent of Prince Kung
that modern international
law did not look with favor
on the infliction of the death
penalty except in clear and
dangerous cases, and
that in the interest of China
I advised that executions of
the nature of those which
had taken place at Nanking
and

and Higgs, or near there, should cease. My views were founded on the following passage found at page 495 § 188 of Hall on International Law: "A spy, if caught by the enemy, is punishable after trial by court-martial with the ignominious death of hanging; though, as M. Bluntschli properly remarks, it is only in the more dangerous cases that the right of inflicting death should be acted upon, the penalty being in general out of all proportion with the crime." The despatch cited states that the request of the Legation

"to

"to the Tsungli Yamên that
Japanese suspects should not
be subjected to harsh treatment
is approved."
In the event, therefore, of any
other case arising against
Japanese, who have been
allowed to remain in China,
I shall feel warranted in
endeavoring in a friendly
way to save them from
decapitation should the facts
justify any interference.
It is perhaps well to state
that in this connection the
Chinese some weeks ago
arrested one of the men who
had been employed by this
Legation to guard Japanese
public

public property. Though the
Yamen has been several
times applied to it has failed
so far to give any reason
for this arrest.
As the man was my servant
I think I have a right to
know the charge and proof
against him.
As peace negotiations are
pending I have it (thought) wise to
forbear for the moment to press
this matter with vigor.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Dip

No 2053. B

2d Assistant Secretary.
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
JAN 24 1895

Secretary of State.
JAN 22 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 10th, 1894.

— Wm. Rhodes Dudley —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —
Report Kiukiang Society Tuition.

No 2053. B One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch No 2024, 2034
of the 24th November last, in which I
1/2053 sent you an account of the formation of a
"Red Cross Society" at Tientsin, I now have
the honor to Enclose a copy of a report
made by the Secretary thereof from which it
appears that the Japanese Commander at
Port Arthur refused to allow the Society
to receive wounded Chinese soldiers.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure. Newspaper account as above.

Enclosure 1. with despatch No 2053.

THE TIENTSIN RED CROSS SOCIETY'S EXPEDITION TO PORT ARTHUR.

When the news of the fall of Port Arthur after two days continuous fighting, reached Tientsin on November 24th, it was also stated that the number of killed and wounded on both sides, especially on that of the Chinese, was very great, and there was every reason to fear that the Japanese authorities, however well disposed they might be to treat the Chinese wounded humanely, would be unable to give adequate care to the suffering of both armies. Dr. B. C. Atterbury and Mr. C. D. Tenney, acting for the Tientsin Red Cross Society, thereupon proposed to His Excellency the Viceroy Li, that a steamer should be sent to Port Arthur, under the auspices of the Society, in order to offer to render assistance to the Japanese Field Hospital Staff in tending the wounded, and if permitted to do so, to bring a number of the Chinese wounded to Tientsin for treatment at the hospitals, established by His Excellency's initiative and at the other hospitals placed at the disposal of the Red Cross Society. The Viceroy responded most cordially to this suggestion and authorised Mr. Tenney to charter a steamer for the purpose at His Excellency's expense, but as no steamer could be obtained the Viceroy sent word on November 25th, that the Chinese steamer "Too-nan" would be placed at the disposal of the Society.

The members of the Executive Committee at once began their preparations for departure. Drs. Atterbury, Smith, Heuston, Young and Wilde, and Messrs. Thomson, Bostwick, Lydum and Tenney volunteered for the trip. The British military officers, Capts. Bouer and Cavendish, and Surgeon-major James, hearing of the proposed expedition, asked permission to accompany it. Each member of the party obtained a certificate from his consul stating the object of his journey and Viceroy Li sent to Mr. Tenney, the secretary of the Society, an official document, placing the steamer "Too-nan" under his orders.

The party left for Taku, with all the necessary drugs and appliances, by the morning train on Monday, November 26th. Owing to delay in the receipt of the Viceroy's authorisation, Mr. Tenney was unable to accompany the others, but the Railway Company kindly furnished a special train to carry him to Taku, in order that the expedition might not be delayed. In spite of this, the steamer was too late for the tide, and as it was thought unsafe to arrive at Port Arthur in the night, the final start from the Bar was not made until 2 p.m. of the next day, November 27th.

The "Too-nan" arrived at Port Arthur at daylight, November 28th. Two Japanese war vessels were archored outside the port, the "Omi Kan." and the Hi-yei-kan." The "Too-nan" approached flying the Red Cross flag, and the flag of truce at the foremast, the C. M. S. N. Co's flag at the mainmast, and the Chinese flag at the mizzenmast, and hoisted the signal, "I wish to Communicate." The "Omi Kan" signaled the "Too-nan" to come to anchor, and soon after sent a crew of marines and two lieutenants on board. The object of the expedition was explained to the two officers, and the senior lieutenant requested Captain Lowe of the "Too-nan," and Mr. Tenney to return with him to the "Omi Kan." Having reached the men-of-war they repeated the explanation, and handed the Viceroy's despatch and the consular certificates to the Japanese captain for examination. After satisfying himself as to these, the captain of the "Omi" sent for an officer of the "Hi-yei Kan," and after consultation between them it was arranged that the "Too-nan" should follow the "Hi-yei" to Ta-lien-wan, to lay the case before the Admiral, who was then at that place.

Captain Lowe and Mr. Tenney thereupon returned to the "Too-nan," in the "Too-nan's" small boat which had followed them to the Japanese men-of-war, and orders were immediately given to hoist anchor. Unfortunately the hoisting gear broke after a few turns, so that the ancher could not be raised, except by tackle, and as a gale of wind was blowing it would have taken several hours to have raised it. The "Hi-yei Kan" had started out sea on observing the "Too-nan" beginning to hoist anchor, but soon returned to ascertain the cause of the delay. This accident was extremely unfortunate for it could not fail to make the Japanese suspicious. After signalling that the "Too-nan" was unable to proceed immediately, Captain Lowe and Mr. Tenney accompanied by Captain Cavendish went in the steamer's small boat to the "Hi-yei Kan" to give explanations, and to express their willingness to accompany the Captain of the "Hi-yei" to Ta-lien-wan on board the man-of-war, if he wished them to do so. The passage in the small boat was attended with considerable difficulty as wind and waves were high, and a few minutes after the three foreigners had boarded the "Hi yei Kan" the small boat foundered. The crew of four Chinese were saved, by the exertions of the officers and men of the "Hi-yei," though the boat was lost. The conduct of the Japanese toward these Chinese sailors was most commendable. They could not have exerted themselves more for their own people. After getting the Chinese on board, they took off their wet clothes, wrapped them in blankets, and gave them restoratives.

The Captain of the "Hi-yei Kan" declined to carry the three foreigners to Ta-lien-wan, on the ground that the Japanese naval regulations forbade it, but he promised to take the papers, and lay them before the Admiral, and to bring back the Admiral's reply. The three representatives of the "Too-nan" party, with the four half drowned Chinese, were returned to the "Too-nan" in the "Hi-yei Kan's" long boat, and Captain Lowe was directed to remain where he was until he received orders from the Japanese Admiral through the Commander of the "Omi Kan."

The "Too-nan" accordingly remained at anchor, under the forts at Port Arthur all the rest of Wednesday, the 28th, and all Thursday the 29th, the "Hi-yei Kan" returning to Port Arthur meantime, and departing again accompanied by the "Omi Kan" without holding any communication with the "Too-nan." On Thursday afternoon, and Friday morning, the Captain of the "Too-nan" signalled to the forts, but could get no answer, and as it seemed impossible to delay longer, Captain Lowe signaled, "I must leave," and began hoisting anchor. Just as the ship was ready to start at at about noon, a Japanese torpedo boat, "No. 19," came out of the harbour bearing the following letter:—

"30th November, 1894.

"To the Members of the Independent Red Cross Society at Tientsin, in the steamer, 'Too-nan.'

"Gentlemen! I appreciate the humane object of your voyage to carry the wounded soldiers to Tientsin in order to be taken care of by your Society. At the same time I have to call your attention to the plain fact that the wounded enemy's soldiers, however humanely they may be treated by the army in whose hands they are, are after all prisoners of war, so that the carrying of them from a land occupied by one of the belligerent armies to the country of the other cannot be called a neutral act. For this reason I am sorry to have to reject your offer. Let this denial, however, be joined with the assurance that it is the rule of our army to take care of the wounded soldiers, without distinction of enemy or not enemy, so that the wounded Chinese soldiers are being actually taken care of in our field hospitals, and I ask the gentlemen to have no anxiety about the matter. Please to understand that communications have been made to the Commander of our fleet that the steamer "Too-nan," in which you now are shall be made to leave the waters about the Reojun peninsula, before 6 p.m., 30th of November, 1894.

"Commander of the Imperial
"Japanese Army.

After reading this letter, the exective members of the society requested the torpedo boat officers to accept the medicines, bandages, splints, etc., on board the "Too-nan," for the use of the wounded in the Port Arthur hospitals. The Commander of the torpedo boat, however, only agreed to accept four boxes as testimony of the humane object of the mission, and these were sent with a note to the Commander-in-Chief, whose letter was left for future acknowledgement, the "Too-nan" starting immediately for Taku, in order to save the tide.

The behaviour of the officers of the Japanese men-of-war and the torpedo boat was extremely courteous and friendly, and although there is nothing in the Japanese Commander's letter to indicate the number of wounded, and the Japanese naval officers declined to give specific information, it was abundantly clear that the number of wounded on both sides was not that anticipated, when the Red cross expedition to Port Arthur was organized, and that the Japanese field medical staff felt itself competent to deal with all the wounded Chinese as well as Japanese. The indications that further military and naval operations by the Japanese forces were in course of preparation, afforded sufficient reason why the doctors on board the "Too-nan" could not be invited to visit the hospitals on shore.

The Red Cross party returned to Tientsin on December 1st, and on the following day, the Honorary Secretary called upon His Excellency Viceroy Li Hung-chang, and gave him an account of the expedition. His Excellency expressed his hearty thanks to the members of the Society for their attempt to relieve the sufferings of the Chinese soldiers, and said that the refusal of the Japanese to allow the removal of the wounded prisoners did not at all diminish the value which he placed on the services of the Society.

Dip

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
For. Rels 1895-[?]-
JAN 24 1895

of State
72 1895

No 2054.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 11, 1894.

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RECD.
JAN 18 1895
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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 24 1895

Hon. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Proclamation against Japanese.

Synopsis
Copy thereof enclosed.

One enclosure.

No 2054.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 11, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In compliance with the terms of your telegram of the seventh instant I have the honor to enclose a translation of the proclamation of the Kiangnan Arsenal authorities which appeared in the Shenpao, a Chinese newspaper published at Shanghai the 27th August 1894.

1/2054

Jt

It also appeared in the Hupao another Chinese newspaper published at Shanghai about the same date.
The enclosed translation was made from the Hupao.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Translation of the Proclamation against Japanese.

Proclamation issued by the Kiangnan Arsenal authorities at Shanghai - in the matter offering rewards.

Be it known that as the dwarf slaves (Japanese) have committed a breach of the peace, our Imperial ruler the Emperor has promulgated by Decree that punishment should be meted out to them.

It is extremely necessary that action should be taken to ascertain and find out those who are pursuing the calling of spies in the interior.

The Japanese assume the dress of the Chinese and some even adopt the garb of priests. At Tientsin, Foochow, Ningpo, Formosa, Shanghai and Canton they have been prying into our military affairs and have even stealthily made their way into our encampments. They have

also

also been in league with
disreputable Chinese and have
secretly obtained information
regarding our commissariat and
other matters. A Japanese spy
has already been arrested at
Tientsin. The arsenal is for the
purpose of manufacturing war
material and a Government
property. It is extremely important
therefore that the strictest
surveillance should be kept
and for this purpose soldiers have
been deputed to keep watch day
and night. This proclamation
offering rewards is hereby
proclaimed for the information
of the people.

Any Japanese disguised in
Chinese dress or any who may
be in league with disreputable
Chinese found in the vicinity of
the Arsenal premises, the Cartridge
and powder works at Ling
Hua, or the godowns where
war

War munitions are stored prying into our affairs or thier being caught, and brought to the Arsenal by our soldiers and people, they will be handed over to the local authorities for examination. If there is positive proof of thier guilt a reward will be given. A reward will also be given to those who communicate information as to the whereabouts of spies who are afterwards arrested. Further those of our forces who are able to resist the approach of the Japanese forces by land will also be rewarded. The various rewards that are offered will be honestly paid as under:

Taels 100 for the arrest of every Japanese spy; for every Chinaman acting as a spy for the Japanese taels 50; for information as to the whereabouts of Chinese acting as Japanese spies

taels

taels 20; for seizing small boats
a steam launches taught a
chartered by the Japanese and
illicitly engaged taels 500 each;
for seizing a Japanese war
vessel taels 10,000; for destroying
a Japanese war vessel taels 8000;
for every Japanese prisoner
taken taels 50; for the head
of every Japanese soldier taken
in battle taels 50.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 23 1895

Secretary of State.
JAN 22 1895

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REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 24 1895

No 2055

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 11, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject-

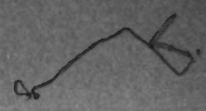
New American - Chinese

Treaty. ---

Synopsis

Arrived New York 1st Dec.

1894.



№ 2055.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 11, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Yamên has informed me that the Inspector General of Customs has received a telegram from his agent at London stating that the new American-Chinese Treaty reached London prior to the

24th

24th. ultimo, and was despatched on that day on the steamer "Etruria" to you. This ship reached New York the first instant. It was sent through the Chinese Minister at Washington.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dip

No 205

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 12, 1894.

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JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 28 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack. 2
29 " Jany 95 m

Subject
Imperial presents

Synopsis.
Minister asks what he is to do with them.

Two enclosures.

No 2056

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 12, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham

Secretary of State,

Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I received from the Tsungli Yamên on the 9th instant a communication of which a translation is enclosed. I also received the presents which are therein described.

1/2056

I enclose a copy of my answer to this communication.

2/2056

It will be seen that I notified the

the Yamen that I would hold
these articles subject to such
order as you may make as
to the disposition thereof.
The same question arose in 1889.
See my despatches No. 846. of
March 10th, 1889; No 852 of
March 16th, 1889; No 853 of
March 17th, 1889.
The Department thereafter decided
that the presents should be
forwarded to it, and that
application would be made
to Congress to enable me to
accept them.
They were sent to Washington,
and I never heard any more
of the matter. The Yamen was
informed before these presents
were

were sent that I could not accept them.
I understand that all of my colleagues received decorations except the Ministers of Russia and England who received presents like those sent to me.
The Russian Minister had already been decorated, and the English Minister cannot accept a foreign decoration. Presents sent to him are usually left in the Legation and considered public property.
I beg to say that I do not wish any application to be made to Congress to enable me to accept these things.

In

In the present condition of China, and in view of the former action of the Department, I did not think proper to return these articles to the Yamên.

There are two courses to pursue with reference to the disposition of these presents: one is to forward them to Washington to be put in the Department library or in some other public place; the other is to leave them here, to remain the property of the United States, and to be displayed in the Legation parlor. The satin might be used to cover public furniture, or for curtains.

Bok

Both courses are liable to objection. Acceptance by the United States, of course, was never intended by China. She would not send such trifling articles to a great Country, and besides our Government made no present to the Empress Dowager, as some other countries did.

To leave them in the Legation is a practical acceptance by the United States, but it is not so marked as would be this transmission to you.

It is proper to note that in 1889, as stated in my despatch No 852 of March 16th, 1889 the Yamen wired directly to

to the Chinese Minister at Washington, and the intervention of this gentleman procured the direction which was made by the Department.

Such a policy would no doubt be pursued again, and action might be taken as it was taken in 1889 - without consultation with me.

I thought it best, therefor, to write to you in the first instant. I await your directions on the subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosures:

1. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr. Denby No 57, December 8, 1894.
2. Answer to the above communication. December 10, 1894.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 57 December 8th, 1894.

Upon the 15 November last the Yamên received a note from the Grand Council announcing that His Majesty had issued the following Decree:

In honor of the 60th birthday of the Empress Dowager all the representatives presented congratulatory letters from the rulers of their respective countries, an act which exemplifies the sincere feeling of friendship entertained towards China and one befitting for the ceremonial occasion. We feel very grateful for this manifestation of kindness.

Let there be presented to Colonel Denby, United States Minister, in honor of the occasion, two large rolls of Hung chou-(satin) and

and two large rolls of Ku tuan (satin), two jars and a set of purses & pouches thus showing the kindly feeling he entertain towards him.
As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers transmit the above articles which they beg Your Excellency will receive.

A necessary communication addressed to

His Excellency Charles Denby

etc., etc., etc.

Informal.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 10, 1894.

Your Highness
and
Your Excellencies,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of Your Highness and Your Excellencies wherein you tender for my acceptance certain rich and valuable presents which were ordered to be delivered to me by His Majesty the Emperor in honor of the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the birthday of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager.

These presents were: Two large rolls of Hung chan (satin) and two large rolls of Kuetuan (satin), two jars and

and a set of purses a piece.
Under the law of my country
as it now exists I am unable
to accept these gifts.
I shall however hold them
subject to such order as my
Government shall make as to
the disposition thereof.
In the meantime I have the
honor to return thanks through
you to His Majesty the Emperor
for the kindness and good will
which prompted the tender of
these valuable gifts.
With assurance of my most
distinguished consideration
I have the honor to be
Your Highness and Your
Excellencies obedient-
servant,
(sg'd) Charles Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 19 1895

No. 2057

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REC'D.
JAN 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 12, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Confirms telegram.

No. 2057.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 12, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 10th instant.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Copy of telegram received.

Washington, December 10, 1894.

Denby Minister,

Peking.

"Nothing further expected
"in reply to my telegram
"of December seventh."

Gresham.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Part Cipher

From Peking Yamen

December 13, 1894.

Gresham

Washington

DEC 17 1894

Received M.

December 13th. The following sent yesterday to the United States Minister at [to] Japan: China regrets that Japan refuses to entertain her former proposal: China proposes, in accordance with the statement of Japan, to appoint minister plenipotentiary with full power to meet the minister plenipotentiary of Japan to negotiate a plan for bringing about peace. China suggests Shanghai as a place of meeting. China desires to know before hand when plenipotentiaries will meet.

Denby

Desp

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JAN 19 1895

No. 2058.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 13, 1894.

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RECD.
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DIPLOMATIC BURFAU
JAN 21 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Indictment of a high official.

Synopsis
Encloses clipping from North
China News.

One enclosure.

No. 2058

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 13, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the North China News of the fourth instant, headed "the indictment of a high official."

This and other similiar attacks are supposed to have brought about the degradation of Li Hung Chang.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

1/058

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Clipping from North China

News of December 4, 1894.

THE INDICTMENT OF A HIGH OFFICIAL.

"I will be hanged, if some eternal villain, some busy and insinuating rogue, some cogging cozening slave to get some office, have not devised this slander."

Shakespeare.

[*Translation.*]

A memorial impeaching a certain high officer of State and calling for his dismissal from the public service on the grounds that he is stupidly incompetent, proudly arrogant, that he has entirely lost all feeling of what is right and has grossly mismanaged matters affecting the country's welfare.

When in the first instance Japan created trouble and encouraged rebellion in an outlying dependency of China, memorialist on reverently perusing the Imperial Declaration of War, dated 1st August recognised that it was only as a last resort that the Emperor was driven to have recourse to arms. The consummate feeling of compassion (towards Corea) not only inwardly cherished but thus outwardly made manifest has commanded the respect of all mankind. Yet during the last two months the situation has undergone repeated changes. Alarming reports of the defeat of our troops and the loss of our territory follow each other in quick succession, and startled by day and terrified by night the minds of men are in great perturbation. The state of mental care and anxiety displayed by the Edict of the 25th of September giving expression to a desire on the part of H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager that, as long as hostilities continued, all festal celebrations in the I-ho Park be suspended, appealed to the hearts of Chinese and foreigners alike, and an universal sense of hatred (against those who caused H.M. this pain) was excited in all breasts.

Memorialist, however, being of opinion that a full and clear statement should be made of the causes which have combined to bring about these calamities, and the hidden influences which have contributed towards this gross mismanagement of affairs, does hereby venture to treat of them in minute detail for H.M.'s information.

Memorialist has been given to understand that not for one moment can Japan's status as a nation or her military strength be compared to those of Western countries. Her national debt is large and her people poverty-stricken, which proves that her prosperity rests on an insecure foundation. She has fast cruisers, but no large battleships, which indicates a defect in her military organisation. Her soldiers are hurriedly levied and are not trained troops. Her political power is divided amongst parties and the administration consequently lacks unity.

On her first breaking out all military experts and those acquainted with foreign affairs ( ) unanimously compared Japan's action to that of the praying mantis, which stretched out its feelers to stop the chariot and which was for its temerity immediately crushed to death. Although even Europeans talked of China's success as a foregone conclusion events have proved under how great a misapprehension all laboured. The capital of Corea was lost, shortly afterwards to be followed by the reverse sustained at Yashan. Ch'engch'uan was abandoned and the army fled in confusion at Pingyang. Vessels of war which were sunk on the Han river have not been recovered and ironclads have been destroyed by fire on Deer Island. Port Arthur and Weihai are the keys of the sea approach, yet no steps are taken to prevent the patrolling of the Gulf by cruisers of the enemy. Ichou constitutes the protection of the Feng't'ien frontier, yet has this bulwark now been completely torn down. The appointment of Wei Ju-kuei transformed the Huai troops, veterans of a hundred fights, into a fleeing rabble. The appointment of Ting Ju-chang reduced a fleet of powerful battleships to a collection of leaking sieves. So far from being able to recover Corea the defences of the Tumên and the Yaloo have become matter of the gravest consideration. So far from being in a position to undertake operations at Chemulpo a descent on Taku and Peit'ang is an imminent danger.

Who is it that has had supreme command of the armies?

Who is it that has controlled advance and retreat, led the great against the small, the mighty against the feeble with the result that a series of such disastrous defeats has been sustained?

Who is it, if not the subject of this memorial—the incompetent, arrogant, unprincipled highly-placed official, who by his conduct has so imperilled the interests of the State that his name stinks in the nostrils of his countrymen?

The grounds on which this universal detestation has been incurred are as follows:

1.—Having received orders to succour Corea, this official secretly tied the hands of his General officers. Having failed to take any precautionary measures in the first instance, he proceeded when the crisis did arrive to hamper their action in every way. At Hsiaopu, Yashan, Pingyang and Lutao, our troops sat with folded hands calmly waiting until they were surrounded and attacked by the Japanese. But surely he cannot seriously expect to be able to make such complaisance a basis on which to conduct peace negotiations? Having neglected to seize the opportunity afforded at the beginning, such action simply tends to raise the prestige of Japan and lower that of China.

On every occasion the Japanese take the initiative and thus it comes about that the valour of our troops has to give way before them. We, on the other hand, invariably wait until the first move has been made and by reason of our tardiness have to bow to the conqueror. The complete wreck which has consequently supervened is entirely due to delay and mismanagement.

2.—When an army starts on a campaign in a distant country proper commissariat arrangements are of the first importance. A department of this nature already exists at home; how much more necessary is it when troops have to be taken outside of China's border? Foreign countries, carrying on war, consider the supply of food for the army to be of even greater moment than that of arms. The high official referred to has had experience of military matters for over thirty years; how comes it then that he has made no provision in this respect? First take the fight at Yashan, where the troops were without provisions or ammunition; then the battle at Pingyang, where they were similarly destitute; no camp followers or baggage carts were provided, so that each soldier had to carry his own rice and was without a supply of spare cartridges. Driven to extremities by hunger they were compelled to forage for food and take it by force, thereby incurring the ill-will of the Corean people. When it came to fighting they had to submit to be slaughtered, having nothing but their bare hands wherewith to strike the enemy. The valiant troops on whom the Throne had placed reliance throughout twenty years, and in whom the hopes of the people centred thus helplessly without arms and without food lay down and died in vain. All this is owing to the blind confidence reposed by a certain official in his own minions and his unwillingness to organise a commissariat.

(3) The designs of Japan on Corea have been maturing during many years; how then comes it that in the spring of the present year on the first indications of her intention to carry these designs into execution becoming apparent, the Superintendency of Northern Trade with its splendid Intelligence Department for foreign affairs, saw and heard nothing? When matters were coming to a head Yüan Shih-k'ai, who thoroughly saw through the Japanese plans, sent frequent secret messages to this official, and had the latter disclosed to the Throne in the beginning the true position of Japan towards Corea there would have been time carefully to consider the matter, and it is hardly likely that there would have been any of the ill-considered hasty action which subsequently ensued. He, on the contrary, at first kept everything shrouded in mystery only letting fall vague hints, and afterwards sought by greatly exalting the power and prowess of the Japanese to instil a dread (of open

rupture). When the crash came the inner secrets of Japanese intrigue were well-known to this high official, whereas the Throne was but imperfectly acquainted therewith. On Yüan Shih-k'ai being summoned to Court by Imperial Edict, the official in question used every endeavour to prevent his going to Peking, and all telegrams that passed through his hands for transmission to the Emperor, he revised and altered in such a manner as to make their contents correspond with the views he himself was putting forward, and to prevent any knowledge of the actual state of foreign affairs reaching the government. The suggestions and orders emanating from the Throne therefore were formed at a distance from the scene of action on unreliable data. The punishment of death would be too light a penalty to pay for such treacherous deceit and misrepresentation.

4.—Of late years all positions of profit and influence throughout the Empire have been under the charge of this official; all military power has been vested in him, as the Throne has ever regarded him as a tower of strength. He, however, has reared a horde of parasites for the purpose of hoodwinking and deceiving the government. ——— are as his eyes and ears ——— are as his inmost heart; Ting Ju-ch'ang and Wei Juhuei are as his talons and teeth; Kung Chao-yü and Lui Han-fang are as his wings. These individuals are derided and scorned by everybody, yet are they appointed by this high official to posts in the Customs, the grain transport service, the telegraphs and the ordnance department. To get proper men to fill posts of this nature is matter of the greatest importance to a country conducting a war, yet are these creatures so firmly established in their present positions they cannot be dislodged. Ordinarily they oppress and grind down the people and prey upon the state in all sorts of dark and nefarious ways. When anything happens, however, they well know how to gloss over their misdeeds with specious falsehoods. Not only do they assist the high official denounced to deceive and hoodwink the government, they go the length of remorselessly selling even him for their own ends. But he ever affords them his protection and like as the mother bird, stretching out her wings over her young, tenderly supplies all their wants, so does he take upon himself to defend them against the attacks of the Censors, whose accusatory statements by scurrilous calumny he endeavours to prove false. To crown all he dared deliberately to disregard an Imperial decree ordering him to dismiss and remove Ting Ju-ch'ang from his post.

A dependency of some thousands of *li* in extent has thus by his supineness been completely surrendered into the hands of these four or five contemptible persons.

5.—The instances above quoted do not by any means complete the record of his misdeeds. Japanese rice steamers were allowed to clear from Chinese ports, and permitted to carry K'aip'ing coal. Japanese spies when caught were either openly discharged or secretly set at liberty.

A man named Wang, living near the Haikuan Ssu, was apprehended and examined at the instance of the Tientsin *hsien*; the son of this high official, the late Minister to Japan, however, interceded on his behalf.

On the arrest of the Japanese informer Shih Ch'uan-shih and Liu of the ordnance Department, evidence was given implicating this son of the high official, herein impeached, together with the heads of that Department, whereupon a certain Taot'ai conveyed to the Tientsin *hsien* Li Chen-p'eng a hint that this high official desired the suppression of such evidence and sought to compel him to alter the substance thereof. This interference was however so strongly resented that the matter was allowed to drop.

A special application was made to the Throne for authorisation to release a Japanese vessel seized near Formosa. Those entrusted with the charge of the Ordnance Department sold quantities of the arms that have been accumulating there for years and pocketed the proceeds. After war had broken out a collection was made of certain useless ammunition for muzzle-loading guns and sold to the Japanese for Tls. 140,000, this sum subsequently being divided up amongst the officials attached to the Department. The warrant to pass this ammunition out of store was signed by the high official of whom this memorial treats. It is further matter of common report that he has millions of taels invested in Japanese coal mines at *Ch'ashan*, that his son has established three foreign *hongs* in the Japanese islands, that greed of gain has so clouded his intellect that he is led by the nose by the Japanese, that the announcement of a reverse sustained by China elates him and correspondingly the tidings of a Chinese victory depresses him.

Although these stories constitute but the gossip of the streets, they are current on ten thousand tongues and can surely not all be utterly without foundation. To sum up the complete overthrow we have sustained is to be attributed to the want of offensive power displayed by the fleet, under the command of Ting Ju-ch'ang. This officer in the first stages of the war kept out of the way of the Japanese, lacking courage to meet them in open fight, and when eventually, while conveying the Ming army corps, he did engage in battle he did so in an unsystematic blundering manner. The *Chihyuen* was the only ship which broke the ranks and rushed to the attack, not one of the others attempted to follow her. Can Ting therefore be said to possess any of the qualities of a Commander-in-chief? To behead the captain of the *Chiyuen* for being the first to flee but to condone the shortcomings of the officer in supreme command would seem to indicate a certain incongruity, and memorialist greatly fears that no reform in the navy is possible.

As regards the Army, Wei Ju-kuei is responsible for its defeat. If [illegible] the wind conveyed to him the fact that the enemy was near he fled, and Yeh Chi[illegible] followed him.

It is reported that a few days before we experienced our first defeat Wei Ju-kuei despatched a secret telegram stating that were Wei's troops withdrawn the others would fight to the death, but were this not done all would be annihilated together. Every form of outrage was perpetrated by Wei's soldiers in Corea, women were violated and property was plundered to such an extent that the Coreans no longer regarded us as friends but as enemies and it was impossible for our men to secure supplies. When the army was defeated the Weis, father and son, took refuge in a clump of reeds, where they nearly met death at the hands of their own soldiers, incited to revenge by the way in which these officers had appropriated their pay and generally maltreated them. All the bamboos on the Southern Hills made into books would not suffice to contain the catalogue of their offences. But although their crimes are known to all the world, yet can the Throne not punish them. For so long as a certain high official is retained in power in the North, so long will these two great traitors fail to meet with their deserts, so long will the return of a proper spirit of the army be deferred and so long will this succession of constant reverses continue. When an army sees its leaders properly rewarded it is stimulated to perform great deeds but cases such as the following deprive a soldier of all heart.

Liu Pu-ch'an, although impeached, was appointed by this high official to act as naval Commander-in-chief, Lin Kuo-hsiang, although he fought bravely but lost his ship, was at the instance of this same official temporarily degraded. The greatest culprit of all, Wei Ju-kuei, the man responsible for all defeat and mismanagement, was similarly represented to be of the highest capacity. The record of his iniquity was by the same hand converted into a list of meritorious actions. With experiences of this kind can any army be expected to hold together? Memorialist has heard that the ruler of Japan has removed his court to Hiroshima in order personally to direct the movement of his forces, and that in the beginning of the 8th moon he fixed a term of twenty days within which they were to take Pingyang. Pingyang as it turned out fell after sixteen days, and it is now stated that Fengtien is to be taken within four weeks, and that Tientsin and Taku must be captured by the end of the 9th moon.

The number of the Japanese troops is set down at 90,000 men, and having invaded Corea in force they will spread into Manchuria, advance towards Tientsin and Taku, and doubtless attempt to invest Peking. Our military organization being in no sense reliable and entrusted to the hands of this incompetent, arrogant, unprincipled mismanager of his country's affairs, is it possible with any degree of certitude to put any confidence in the statements of whose who assert that the Imperial Mausolea will remain inviolate and that never need anxious fears disturb the capital?

When war first broke out brave, loyal leaders, such as Sung-ch'ing and Liu Yung-fu were burning with zeal to proceed to the front, but they were all laid under restraint and kept back by this high official. Amongst the officers that were actually sent Nieh Shih-ch'eng of the *Huai* army and Ts'ao K'o-chung of Tientsin had the reputation of being able generals and superior to the others, but their action was likewise fettered by those of his satellites who accompanied them. Memorialist is given to understand that Sung-ch'ing has been entrusted with the command of the army in the field, but, if this official continues to have control at the base, it is to be feared that, his jealousy being excited, he will continue to pursue his obstructive tactics. The transmission of despatches will be delayed, the supplies of food and ammunition will prove defective and one's blood will be made to run cold by a repetition of the Pingyang disaster.

According to universal popular opinion this official must be severely reprimanded and removed from Tientsin before our splendid troops and valiant leaders will be able to put forth their utmost strength, and by fighting to the death to wipe out the disgrace of the reverses we have hitherto experienced.

It is for this reason that the fate of the country and the welfare of the people entirely hinges on the retention in or dismissal from office of this one man, and memorialist ventures to express a hope that his Majesty will deign to issue definite orders in the sense desired. Should the counsels of his party be listened to further and any compromise which would lead to a continuance of his tardy and damaging policy be effected, the troops will remain uninspired by a proper martial spirit, Fengt'ien will be invaded and the fall of Weihaiwei and Port Arthur become a moral certainty. Should the second capital (i.e., Moukden) be lost, alarm will knock at the gates of the present capital and chaos supervene. To feast off the flesh of that official would then be but of little avail.

As long as he is not removed there is grave reason to fear, moreover, that no response will be made to the urgent daily appeals issued by the Throne to the people, and a state of things will ensue about which memorialist does not care to speak. It is on these grounds that he ventures with tears in his eyes to set forth the circumstances which have roused popular indignation to so high a pitch.

Should his Majesty graciously condescend to pay heed to his advice he would humbly request that some experienced and trustworthy leader, well acquainted with military affairs, be selected and despatched with all haste to the front, in order that proper measures may be taken forthwith to carry on the war. He is well aware how rash and inexpedient a step it is from a military point of view to supersede a Commander-in-Chief in the field, but if a certain high official goes on protecting his own and giving way to the enemy, the consequences will be so serious and far-reaching that memorialist dare not stand aside and do nothing to avert the ruin which he sees hanging over his country.

It is reported to-day that the official in question is entering into private negotiations for peace with the Japanese, on the basis of a surrender of Corea and Formosa and the payment of a large money indemnity. Were such a settlement arrived at, were the heritage of our ancestors thus abandoned, or were a drain of this kind made on the wealth of our country, complete disintegration of the Empire would at once set in. Although it is only an unconfirmed rumour, yet previous experience of this official's conduct and proclivities would justify a supposition that he would not rest contented until he had carried his perverse folly to even these lengths.

It is therefore memorialist's earnest prayer that the high official herein arraigned be at once degraded and deposed from office. When this shall have been done peace will once more reign in the ancestral halls, the spirit of our army will be re-invigorated, and it will be possible to entertain a hope that the lost dependency may yet be recovered.

Such a consummation would indeed confer the greatest happiness on the whole Chinese people.

A memorial presented on the 6th day of the 9th moon, Kuang-hsü XX (October 4th, 1894) by a certain Hanlin Reader and fifty-four members of the College of Literature.

No. 2059

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JAN 18 1895

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 13, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. of STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Confirms telegram of the
12th instant relating to
negotiations for peace.

No. 2059

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 13, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of yesterday relating to negotiations for peace.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

(over)

Translation of cipher telegram sent.

Gresham,
Washington.
December 12th 14th

"The following was sent
"yesterday to American
"Minister Tokyo:
"China regrets that Japan
"refuses to entertain her
"former proposals.
"China proposes in
"accordance with the
"statement of Japan to
"appoint a plenipotentiary
"with full power to meet
"the plenipotentiary of Japan
"to negotiate a plan
"for bringing about peace.

China

"China suggests
"Shanghai as the
"place of meeting.
"China desires to know
"beforehand when the
"plenipotentiaries will
"meet.

(Signed) Derby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File
JAN 25 1895

No. 2060

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 13, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

JAN 25 1895

Subject
United States marines for service at Peking.

Synopsis
Thanks Secretary of the Navy.
Force at Tientsin.

No. 2066.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 13, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I beg to return thanks to the Honorable Secretary of Navy for his prompt acquiescence in my request that the crew of the Monocacy should be increased by fifty men, who should be subject to be sent to Peking, if needed, to protect the Legation, and the Americans here against mob violence.

I

I am informed that this force has arrived at Tientsin and is subject to be sent hither on my request.

As peace negotiations are pending I will not ask that these men be sent hither now, nor will I in any event ask it unless the Japanese march on this city.

My colleagues who made the same requisition take the same view that I do.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dup

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
JAN 29 1895

No. 2067.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 15, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JAN 29 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 30 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Vetchie. Jan. 30.

Subject.

Detention of chartered junks.

Synopsis.

Minister requests Yamen to issue orders to prevent it.

One enclosure.

No. 2061

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 15, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

1/2061 I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me to the Tsungli Yamên to-day relating to the detention of chartered junks at points on the Yangtze and the collection of illegal fees therefrom.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamen

No 54. December 15, 1894.

No. 54.

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

Peking, December 15, 1894.

Your Highness and Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to inform you that considerable complaint is made to me by the American Consul at Hankow and by private citizens touching the detention of foreign chartered junks at Customs Stations and barriers on the Yangtze.

I have to request that you instruct His Excellency the Viceroy at Nanking to issue orders to the Customs Stations and barriers under his jurisdiction to refrain from detaining chartered foreign

junks

junks, and from collecting
illegal fees from them.
I ask also that the officer in
charge of the Salt Gabelle on
Si-erbe-wi be instructed not
to require foreigners who are
willing to charter their junks
to foreigners to sign a bond
that they will not take freight
from foreign charterers, but to
give the junks their salt
freight according to the old
regulations.

I have the honor to be,

etc., etc., etc.,

(Signed) Charles Denby.

7

Secretary's File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 6 1895

No. 2062.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 17, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
FEB 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegram of the 14th instant relative to the use of the Atlantic Cable.

No 2062

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 17, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 14th. instant relating to the use of the Atlantic Cable.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Copy of translation of telegram received in cipher.

Washington, December 14, 1894

Denby,

Minister Peking.

Use Atlantic Cables via Western Union.

Gresham.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

From Peking

December 18, 1894.

Received 1:50 P. M.

Gresham

Washington.

December eighteenth. Question of bringing marines [to] Peking came up with Russian Minister. I have ordered none [four]. China objects; Yamen asks reference to you. Exercised or not right ought to be insisted upon. See Treaties, page 160.

Denby.

No. 2063.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 18, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
FEB 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Hon. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Telegraphing mode of.

Synopsis
Chinese administration directed to use cables via Western Union.

No 2063.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 18, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In answer to your telegram of the 14th. instant wherein you direct me to use Atlantic Cables via Western Union I have to say that I directed the Telegraph Administration here to comply with this direction.

I received an answer stating that when a route was indicated on a telegram by a sender the Chinese

Chinese Administration transmits
the indications free of charge,
but it cannot be responsible for
their being carried out beyond
Chinese lines.

I have the honor to be,

T. M. Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No 2064

DIPL... FEB 15 1895

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 18, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
FEB 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Acct. 15 Feby 95. m

Subject

Sending foreign troops to Peking.

Synopsis

China objects to sending troops.

Question taken up by foreign ministers.

Two enclosures.

№ 2064

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch № 2060 of the 13th. instant I informed you that my colleagues agreed with me that troops should not be ordered to come to Peking while peace negotiations were pending, nor unless the Japanese should march on the city.

I was mistaken as to the intention

intention of the Minister of
Russia in this regard.
Without consultation with his
colleagues he engaged a
transportation for his marines
and made arrangements to ship
them hither the fourteenth instant.
H-I-s Consul then went to see the
Viceroy Li and asked that a
small escort might be sent with
the Russians to prevent their
being molested by the people
en route from Tientsin. The
Viceroy after telegraphing to
the Government informed the
Consul that no foreign troops
would be allowed to go to Peking,
that the Emperor guaranteed
the protection of foreigners at
the

the Capital, but that he could not guaranty the safety of troops while on the march.
On being informed of this condition of affairs the Russian Minister requested me as Dean to call a meeting of the foreign representatives to consider the question of the right of the ministers to bring troops to Peking.
We met at the Russian Legation the 14th. instant. The matter was discussed and it was found that every Minister insisted on his right to have an escort at his Legation. It appears that for some years after Peking was opened to the Legations each of them had an escort.

The

The English, French and Russians for several years had a large escort. By degrees the number of men so employed diminished. The Russians have to this day had several Cossacks and the English two soldiers. There have been no escorts at the other Legations. The English now have ten men stationed at the Legation. The Treaties generally provide that a Minister may bring to Peking a suitable suite.

Our treaty of 1858 is the only one which specifies any particular number of persons who may compose the Minister's suite. The fifth article provides that: "On his (the Minister's) arrival at the

the Capital he shall be furnished with a suitable residence prepared for him and he shall defray his own expenses, and his entire suite shall not exceed twenty persons, exclusive of his Chinese attendants, none of whom shall be engaged in trade;" see Treaties 1776-1887 p. 160 Art. V. There can be no doubt, I think, that this clause in view of the common practice of the other Legations warrants the bringing of an armed escort to Peking by the Minister of the United States. At the meeting above mentioned we were informed by Count Cassini that he had already addressed

addressed the Tsungli Yamên on the subject, but had received no answer. It was, therefore, concluded to take no action until the Yamên's reply should be received.

Prompted no doubt by the circumstances above stated a decree was published in the Manuscipt Gazette of the 14th instant providing for the preservation of order at and near the Legations and Missions; a translation where of is enclosed. It is to be remarked in this connection that no foreigner here has the least confidence in the ability, or even the will, of Chinese soldiers, or policemen, to protect

1/2064

protect foreign persons, & property, against a mob. From this sweeping statement, perhaps, a missionary, here and there ought to be excepted.

The Diplomatic body met to-gether again at 6 o'clock the 15th instant.

The Yamen had replied to the demand of the Russian Minister that foreign troops would not be permitted to come to Peking. It was stated that the right to have escorts was admitted to exist during times of peace, but not in the present condition of things. After some discussion it was agreed that the Ministers of France and I should

should prepare a collective
note to be signed by all the
foreign representatives. I claimed
that this communication should
be written in English, but as
French is the only language
ever spoken at diplomatic
meetings I was overruled.
We wrote the note in French;
2/ 2064 of which I enclose a translation.
The French text was signed
by all the foreign representatives
and a Chinese text was sent
with it to the Yamên the
afternoon of the 16th. instant.
There are now in front of
each Legation thirty a
forty soldiers. They occupy
tents on the side walk. They
are

are armed with long spears,
and curved swords fastened
on the ends of sticks about
three feet long. They are
neatly dressed and well
behaved. The weather is
intensely cold and the men
must suffer in their tents.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

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note to be signed by all the
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that this communication should
be written in English, but as
French is the only language
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and curved swords fastened
on the ends of sticks about
three feet long. They are
neatly dressed and well
behaved. The weather is
intensely cold and the men
must suffer in their tents.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

A Decree published in the Municipal Gazette Dec. 14th, 1894.

During the present year there has been a large influx of people into Peking from the various provinces, and now that the cold weather has set in it would not be easy to guarantee the place free from bad characters, who move about for the purpose of creating disturbances.

Let the Yamen of the Gendarmerie appoint dilligent and worthy officers with police to preserve order at the places where the Foreign Legations and Missionary Establishments are situated. They are to patrol and in good earnest accord every protection, and any outlaws causing trouble are to be at once vigorously arrested and severely punished. Not the least carelessness & remissness in the performance of their duty will

will be allowed, thus securing
peace and order from evil doers
and manifesting our sincere
purpose to be friendly toward
foreign nations.

Translation

Peking December 16, 1894.

Your Highnesses and
Your Excellencies.

Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies know that in conformity with the instructions of their Governments the Ministers of Germany, the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, Russia and the Chargé d'Affaires of Spain have assembled at Tientsin a certain number of marines & sailors intended to serve as guards for the Legations at Peking.

The right of the Legations to have and to keep at Peking a guard and an escort is formally inscribed in the treaties and is sanctioned by a practice lasting thirty five years. It has never been questioned.

The

The Representatives of the Foreign Powers accredited to Peking standing on this incontestable right request in consequence Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies to send the required instructions in order that en route from Tientsin to Peking every facility may be furnished for the passage of the detachments detailed as guards for the Legations.

You are requested in view of the urgency of the times and the advanced state of the season of winter to return the answer hereto without delay.

Signed by the Ministers of the United States, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, and the Chargé d'Affaires of Spain.

No. 2065

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 20, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
FEB 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 15 1895

Ack'd Feby 28 '95

Subject.

Bringing troops to Peking.

Synopsis.

Encloses Yamên's answer to collective note. Recommends insistance on right. Confirms telegram.

Article 5 of Act of 1858 does not seem to give right to maintain a fence to high water mark or Picking with a ditch or other guard of 20 rods, and I know of no provision in any subsequent Act that authorizes the Govr to maintain such a guard—

In absence of such no such authority

Article 5 of Treaty of
1858. does not seem
to U.S. right to maintain
a permanent legation
at Peking with a
guard or other guard
of 20 men, and I
know of no provision in
any subsequent treaty that
authorizes this govt to
maintain such a
guard.
In absence of treaty
no such right exists

If the govt has the right
to dispense with
these numerous
the govt of the
strength in numbers
of the guards to
govt and, if the
Courts permitted
permit the intro-
duction into the
country of such
a force

from ~~If the~~ China
is bound to afford
adequate protection
to our legations and
if she fails to do so
and it is murdered
or otherwise mal-
treated she is
responsible to
Of course our
legations can leave
Pekin if danger
is imminent or

4

Meeting - ~~what~~

Why should I be re-
-sponsible
I. dont go.

W. D. L.

No. 2065

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 20, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No 2064 of the eighteenth instant relating to the proposition to bring foreign troops to Peking to protect the Legations, I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication on that subject from the Tsungli Yamên, which is an answer to the collective note set out in the despatch above

1/2065

above cited. It is, however, addressed to each Minister individually.

In the despatch cited I referred to Art. V of the Treaty of 1858 - Treaties 1776-1887 p. 160 as authority for bringing at least twenty foreign persons to Peking. I referred, also, to the practice of having escorts here which prevailed in several Legations.

I have not yet determined to request that the detachment now at Tientsin be sent hither. In my telegram of November 23rd last, which was confirmed in my despatch No. 2032 of the same date, I used these words: "Unless peace made ask Secretary of the

the Navy to strengthen Honorary
crew fifty men for service Peking."
As peace negotiations are still
pending I have not as yet seen
the necessity of bringing troops
to Peking.
My colleagues not being informed
of the exact condition of the
negotiations do not look at
matters as I do.
The question of the right of the
Legations to have escorts here
is abstract and independent of
the probability of its exercise.
It may never be exercised, but it
should not be abandoned. At this
time, especially, it should be
insisted on because the condition
of China may become unsettled
and

and dangerous in the highest degree.

As the Yamên desired me to telegraph you I sent you the eighteenth instant a cipher telegram of which the following is a translation:

"Gresham,

"Washington.

"December 18, 1894.

"Question of hinging mariner
"Peking came up with
"Russian Minister.
"I have ordered none. China
"objects. Yamên asks reference
"to you. Exercised or not
"right ought to be insisted
"upon. See Treaties page 160."

"Denby"

As another reason for not hinging mariner

marines hither now I may
mention that it is not supposed
that the Japanese are coming to
Peking until the Spring.
The dangers, difficulties,
inconveniences and expenses
of marching troops to Peking
are manifold. I shall not
take the risks except as a
last resort. As before my
arrival in China the other
Ministers accredited at Peking
had made every arrangement
for having troops here I was
compelled, somewhat unwillingly,
to do the same. In the event
of serious danger my fellow-
citizens here would have
severely reproached me if I
had

had taken no precaution, while other ministers took unusual precautions for protection.

As this despatch will not reach you for two months it is useless to discuss the question further, except to say that a telegram received from Japan last night seems to assure peace.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No. 58 December 17, 1894.

Upon the 16th instant the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication signed by the Minister of the United States and the other Diplomatic representatives at Peking to effect that in conformity with the instructions of their Governments there have assembled at Tientsin a certain number of marines & sailors intended to serve as guards for the Legations at Peking. That the right of the Legations to have and to keep at Peking a guard and an escort is formally inscribed in the Treaties and is sanctioned by a practice lasting thirty five years. It has never been questioned and the Foreign representatives request the Prince and Ministers to send the required instructions in order that en route from Tientsin to Peking every facility

facility may be furnished for the passage of the detachments detailed as guards for the Legations.

In answer it may be observed that there are no provisions of treaty with the Foreign powers permitting the various Legations at Peking to have a guard of soldiers for protection either permanently or temporarily, and for the past thirty or more years nothing of the kind has been done.

By the 3d Article of the British Treaty "Her Majesty's Representative shall be at liberty to choose his own servants and attendants who shall not be subjected to any kind of molestation whatever."

This article points or refers to the employment of Chinese subjects as servants and attendants and not to a guard of soldiers.

The 18th Article of the same treaty provides that in all cases of insult or violence, etc, the responsibility

responsibility shall rest with the local authorities who shall depute soldiers for the suppression of disorder. (This article is only partially quoted. F.D.C.)

The text of this article, it will be observed, does not imply that the Foreign Ministers themselves shall be permitted to detach troops for the protection of their Legations. On the 14th of December H is Majesty issued the following Decree-

"During the present year there has been a large influx of people into Peking from the various provinces, and now that the cold weather has set in it would not be easy to guarantee the place fell from bad characters, who never stand for the purpose of creating disturbances. Let the Yamên of the Gendarmie appoint dilligent and worthy officers with police to preserve at the places

places where the Foreign Legations and Missionary establishments are situated.
They are to patrol and in good earnest accord every protection, and any outlaws causing trouble are to be at once vigorously arrested and severely punished. Not the least carelessness or remissness in the performance of this duty will be allowed; thus securing peace and order from evil-doers and manifesting our sincere purpose to be friendly toward foreign nations."

The Yamen at once informed the Gendarmerie and in obedience to His Majesty's mandate proper officers have been selected and appointed, with troops, which have been stationed at the various Legations, who are to patrol and in good earnest protect and guard them. It would, therefore, be impossible for unexpected danger to occur.

The

The responsibility of giving due protection (to the Legations etc.) should entirely rest with China and she has already taken action in a thorough and earnest manner. As to the point in the communication under acknowledgment of the Legations having a detachment of troops who are to come to Peking for the purpose of affording due protection, if this were to be done, it is to be feared that the people might become frightened and there easily cause trouble. There are many inconveniences to such a plan.

The Prince and Ministers beg that the Ministers of the United States will consider that China's purpose is to exert herself and is able to bear the responsibility of affording due protection, and that he will telegraph the Government of the United States to drop the matter.

A necessary communication addressed to

H. Ex. Charles Denby,

etc. etc. etc.

Dip Telegram cipher

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
~~WASHINGTON~~.

Peking Dec 19, 1894.

Gresham
Washington.

Japan agrees appoint
Minister Plenipotentiary Tenth
only after China appoints.
Place of meeting must be
in Japan. China consid-
ering the proposals.
Denby.

Dispatch

Telegram sent
Peking Dec 29 94.

Denham
Washington

I have just sent to Japan
a telegram stating that
China appoints Chang
former Minister to Washington
and Shao Acting Governor of
Hunan plenipotentiaries to
make peace. China consents
to go to Japan.

Denby

It can hardly be considered that the action of the Govt has acted in accordance with our attitude or interfered materially with the taken up position against Japan

No. 2066

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 20, 1894

Rec'd 15 Feby '95. m

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 14 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Peace negotiations

Synopsis

Japan's telegram. Interview with the Yamên. Telegram confirmed. Allusion to effort to change place of meeting to Seoul.

No. 2066.

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 20, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I received yesterday from Tokyo the telegram of which the following is a copy:

"December 18th

"American Minister,

"Peking.

"In answer to your cipher "telegram dated the "12th instant the Japanese

Government

"Government replies as
"follows: If China should
"appoint plenipotentiary with
"full powers to conclude
"peace the Japanese
"Government will be ready
"to appoint theirs. But
"before such appointment
"will be made on the part
"of Japan it is essential
"that China will inform
"Japan of the name and
"rank of her plenipotentiary.
"The place of meeting of
"plenipotentiaries must be
"in Japan."

"Omi"

This telegram reached me after
dark the 18th instant. I immediately
sent

sent a notice to the Yamên asking for an interview at 2 o'clock to-day. Having returned from the Yamên I sent to you the following in cipher:

"Gresham,

"Washington.

"December 19th.

"Japan agrees to appoint
"minister plenipotentiary, but
"only after China appoints.
"Place of meeting must be
"in Japan. China considering
"the proposals."

Denby.

In my interview with the Yamên I found, as I have heretofore found, that the greatest difficulty in the way of its members

coming

coming to a conclusion was the
dread of sending a plenipotentiary
to another country to treat for peace.
Such a thing had never happened
in the history of China, and it
was regarded as bring in the
highest degree derogatory to her
dignity. Under the usages of
nations the conqueror, the belligerent
at whose hands peace is sought
for by his vanquished antagonist,
has the recognized right to name
and dictate the place at which
negotiations for peace shall be
entered upon.

I have time and again explained
this canon of international law
to the Yamên. Nevertheless with an
unheard of obstinancy they have
clung

clung to the idea that the place selected should be on the soil of China.

This obstinacy has already delayed the appointment of a plenipotentiary more than two weeks. Even Li Hung Chang, who is recognized as being more intelligent than his fellow officials, insists that he will not go to a foreign country. Another idea which probably, would not have been conceived any where except in a semi-civilized oriental country, has delayed a conclusion of preliminaries and that is: that it is generally believed that whoever negotiates the projected treaty will lose his

his head, becoming a scapegoat for the maledictions which will follow the execution of the treaty. This question had to be met with a vigorous and heroic treatment. I suggested to the Yamên that it would be quite proper to insert in the treaty a clause that in no event should the negotiators be held personally responsible, nor suffer injury, on account of any act done in connection with the making of the treaty. I do not know whether Japan will permit the insertion of such a clause as affecting her own plenipotentiary. But the suggestion thereof has somewhat tranquilized the minds of the members of

the

the Yamen. If I have exceeded in this suggestion the practice of nations, it must be born in mind that I am in a land which at this moment is about to be drenched as is generally believed with the blood of unfortunate generals and admirals.

The interview with the Yamen as to matters not yet mentioned was about the same as usual. Complaints were made that Japanese soldiers were treating the Chinese soldiers cruelly, that Japan had not acceded to any proposition made by China, that they were in the dark as to Japan's intentions. I was asked repeatedly whether I could not find out

Japan's

Japan's intentions, whether I could not myself write personally to Japan, whether she would grant an armistice and when and where the meeting would be. One member suggested that in case the negotiations fell through the life of the Chinese plenipotentiary would not be safe in Japan. This statement I repelled with some indignation, because, I thought, that Chang Ing-huan, who made it ought to have known better.

As I have stated the Chinese have no precedent for the making of a treaty outside of China. In supfort of the statement that treaties were often made

made in the country of the victorious party I cited the following treaties:

1. Peace of St. Germain Enlaye between France and Brandenbourgh in 1679.

2. The treaty of Ryswick, a village near the Capital (The Hague) in which the French sent Plenipotentiaries after being beaten by the English and Dutch. Negotiated in May 1697.

3. The treaty of Utrecht 1713 - after defeat of France by Holland and England.

4. Peace of Luneville (France) February 1801 in which the Emperor of Germany confirmed the Treaty of Campo Formio - 1797 -

-1797- and ceded the R limit frontier to France.

5 Russo Turkish Treaty respecting Moldavia and Wallachia, and war indemnity to be paid by Turkey signed at St. Petersburg January 29, 1834.

6 Treaty of Peace between Denmark, Austria, and Prussia negotiated at Vienna October 30, 1864.

7. Treaty of 1856, Paris, after the Crimean war was negotiated and signed at Paris on the 30th March, an armistice having only been concluded on the 30th March.

I referred. also, to the Treaty of Versailles made between Great Britain

Britain on the one side and France and the American Colonies on the other.

This show of learning, as you will, of course, imagine was made for the purpose of firing presented to the Emperor and making him believe that China was not losing face by consenting that her plenipotentiary should go to Japan to treat for peace.

The old question came up again as to whether I would counsel them after the plenipotentiaries were named and I was compelled to say that I would.

The interview lasted about an hour and a half. I can reproduce

reproduce only the salient points. I left with the Yamên a Chinese translation of Japan's despatch and a memo suggesting an answer.

I strongly hinted at the propriety of appointing Li Hung Chang plenipotentiary. They seemed pleased, but gave no definite response.

I insisted that they should not keep me waiting as they lately did ten days, but that they should answer very soon, as no doubt there would be other telegraphic correspondence. They said they would consider the matter, and would answer as soon as possible. After

I

I returned to the Legation it occurred to me that Japan might possibly consent that the place of meeting of the plenipotentiaries might be changed to Seoul.

I thought also that in that event Li Hung Chang might consent to accept the position of plenipotentiary.

China's "face" would to some extent be saved and Japan's evident desire to have a plenipotentiary of the highest rank to deal with might also be realized.

The action taken will be reported in subsequent despatches.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

your

Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 2 1895

No. 2067.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 21, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegram relating to negotiations for peace.

No 2067.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 21, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of yesterday relating to negotiations for peace.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

December 20th.

Gresham,

Washington.

I have just sent to Japan a telegram stating that China appoints Chang former Minister to Washington and Shao acting Governor of Hunan Plenipotentiaries to make peace.

China consents to go to Japan.

Derby.

Copy
Amby no File

DIPLOMATIC BURFAU.
MAR 8 1895

No. 2068

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 22, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Confirms telegram of the 19th instant relating to the bringing of marines to Peking.

No. 2068

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 22, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 19th instant relating to the hiring of mariner to Peking, which reached me this day at 5 o'clock P.M.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher]

December 19th.

Denby.

Minister, Peking.

If China unable to afford protection and other Powers send marines to Peking you are authorized to act in concert with them conferring with Carpenter. Secretary of the Navy doubts wisdom sending marines. Whenever you deem further stay at Peking is dangerous you are at liberty to go where war vessel can afford protection.

Gresham.

GP

accepted in Full

No. 2069.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 22, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Confirms telegram relating
to Department's mistake.

No. 2069

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 22, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegram of the 21st instant as follows:

Deputy Minister,
Peking.

"Department's instruction
"939 a mistake. Your
"treatment of it
"approved."

"Gresham."

I

I have the honor to be;

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Dsp

No. 2070 acknd to file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 2 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 24, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Peace negotiations

Synopsis
Transmits translation of telegram to Japan.

No. 2070

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 24, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to Japan sent the 20th instant relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher.]

December 20th

American Minister,

Tokyo.

I have the honor to transmit the Japanese Government the following: The Government of China has appointed Chang Yin huan, holding the rank of President of a Board, Minister of the Tsungli Yamên and junior Vice President of the Board of Revenue and Shao Yu lien an officer of the button of the first rank, Vice President of the Board of War and acting Governor of Hunan, as plenipotentiaries with full powers to proceed to Japan to confer with the plenipotentiaries appointed by Japan to conclude

in

in consultation peace.
China desires that Japan will select
a place of meeting of the plenipotentiaries
of the two countries near Shanghai
to the end that it may be convenient
in going and coming. China hopes
that Japan will at once appoint
plenipotentiaries with full powers
and at an early date fix the time
of meeting and on the day of
appointment by Japan of plenipotentiaries
the two countries will decide the
day an armistice will commence.
China suggests Nagasaki.

Derby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 2 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 2 1895

No. 2071

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 24, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Treatment of unfortunate Generals and Admirals.

Synopsis
Translations from Peking Gazette enclosed

One enclosure.

No. 2071.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 24, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State.
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose
a clipping from the Peking and
Tientsin Times of the 22nd instant,
bring translations from the Peking
Gazette, showing how China
treats her unfaithful Generals and
Admirals.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

By an Imperial Edict published in the *Peking Gazette* the 22nd day, of the 11th moon (18th December, 1894). According to the report of Sung Ching who has been ordered to state the different cases of the several generals, &c., who had been disapproved of. The degraded Brigade-General of Ning-hsia-chên in the province of Kansu, Wei Ju-wei usually treated his soldiers without mercy. This time when they went to Corea to fight the enemy, he could not direct them properly. His soldiers troubled the inhabitants as they passed, so that the inhabitants hated and mistrusted us which is indeed an offence in every respect and so the undertaking was destroyed. He has already been decreed to be deprived of his titles and sent to Peking. We have commanded Li Hung-chang and Yu Lu twice to find out where the said degraded officer has arrived at and to send him immediately to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with and not to delay.

The degraded Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli Yeh Chih-tsao retreated from King-chou to Ping-yang but did not fight with the enemy. All the reports of his victories in different places are false. Arriving at Ping-yang, he could not manage the matter properly but again retreated. At that time he had eight regiments of foot and horse at An-chou with which he could have defended the place, but he did not, but crossed the Yalu river. He cannot direct and manage the matter and failed to do his duty.

The Admiral of the Navy Ting Ju-chang, having been deprived of his titles but kept in office, has directed the navy for many years. Since the Japanese [Wo-jen] bagan hostilities we have ordered him twice to put his navy to sea to fight the enemy. The degraded officer was afraid and delayed and neglected in all respects. He is the only person that is responsible for the safety of Port Arthur yet he could not send soldiers to save it. He is indeed timid and useless. He should be greatly blamed. We command that Yeh Chih-tsao and Ting Ju-chang shall be sent to the Board of Punishments to treat them according to the degree of their crimes. Respect this.

According to the report of Yu Lu who stated the circumstance under which the soldiers retreated from Hsin Yen, when the degraded Military Deputy—Lieutenant-Governor Feng Sheng-ah General-in-Chief Nieh Kuei-lin again retreated at Hsi-mu-chêng, we have deprived them of their titles and sent them to the Board of Punishments to treat them, stating that from the 19th to 21st of the 10th moon, the Japanese attacked the city of Hsin Yen-chou twice, Feng Sheng-ah and Nieh Kuei-lin should have defended it but they retreated to Lung Feng-ku and left the city attacked. This is indeed hateful. Let the Board of Punishments consider this according to law together with their former crimes. He further states that the second Captain Chou Ting Chai and Lieut. Colonels Chin Tê-feng and Chang Chan-kuei should be deprived of their titles and kept to regain Our esteem. The rest shall be dealt with according to the decision of the Board concerned. Respect this.

Owing to the loss of Port Arthur, we have commanded Li Hung-chang to find out whether the Director of the Port, Taotai Kung Chao-yu has secretly run away. According to Li Hung-chang's report, he requests Us to deprive Kung Chao-yu of his titles but keep him in office; He shall be deprived of his titles and not allowed to be kept in office. The degraded officer managed the works and also directed military and naval affairs. When the Japanese attacked the place, he could not have saved it together with his soldiers and therefore the Port was lost and he concealed himself at Chefoo. It is not enough to deprive him of his titles only, he shall be sent to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with. As to Generals-in-chief Wei Ju-cheng and Huang Ssu-lin, Brigade General of Lin Yuen-chen in the province of Yun Nan-chiang Kuei Ti, Brigade-General Chung Jun-ho, whose duties are to direct the soldiers to reside at and defend Port Arthur, it is not known where they have gone. We now command Li Hung-chang, to find out and report. Chou Huai-yeh has been deprived of his titles and is to be sent to the Board of Punishments to be judged. The said degraded officer shall be found out wherever he is and be immediately sent to the Board concerned. Respect this.

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The Admiral of the Navy Ting Ju-chang, having been deprived of his titles but kept in office, has directed the navy for many years. Since the Japanese [Wo-jen] bagan hostilities we have ordered him twice to put his navy to sea to fight the enemy. The degraded officer was afraid and delayed and neglected in all respects. He is the only person that is responsible for the safety of Port Arthur yet he could not send soldiers to save it. He is indeed timid and useless. He should be greatly blamed. We command that Yeh Chih-tsao and Ting Ju-chang shall be sent to the Board of Punishments to treat them according to the degree of their crimes. Respect this.

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2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 21 1895

Secretary of State.
MAR 20 1895

No 2072

Legation of the United State
Peking, December 26, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The war indemnity

Synopsis
Suggestion that it must be paid by the sale of franchises and that Americans should compete.

No. 2072.

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 26, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

In view of the fact that peace negotiations are now pending I venture to offer the following remarks, as perhaps, worthy of your consideration. Opinions in China are diverse as to the possible results of the war. The conditions that Japan may demand have not been disclosed. It is altogether probable that the

the most important of these will be: the independence of Korea as far as China is concerned, the payment of a war indemnity, and the application of the principle of uti possidetis under which Japan will claim the Liaotung peninsula, including Newchwang and Port Arthur with some adjacent parts of Manchuria. Minor conditions will probably be added. They may involve trade or residential points, which if incorporated in a treaty, would, under the favored nation clause in all the treaties, ensure to the benefit of all the treaty powers.

That a complete revolution

m

in the social and political condition of China, may ensue, is thought by some persons to be imminent.

Others think that when the pressure of arms is removed China will relapse into her old ways of isolation, conservatism, and repudiation of progress.

It does not concern me at this time to express an opinion as to which of these views is correct. I prefer to base what I have to say on facts, either already accomplished, or certain of realization, unless anarchy and ruin shall overwhelm China. China will shortly find herself under the imperious necessity

of

of raising some hundreds of millions of dollars wherewith to pay the war indemnity. Under the old system of raising revenue she will be absolutely unable to raise a tithe of this sum.

Her foreign customs now pay about Taels 20,000,000 per annum, her native customs less. The land tax, the likin, the sales of honors, the salt monopoly constitute, in general, the other sources of revenue.

They scarcely suffice for ordinary expenditures.

China must look elsewhere to meet any new liabilities.

She owes foreign indebtedness.

How then will she be able to raise money

money with which to pay a
war indemnity?
The most practical mode to do
so is to dispose of her valuable
franchises which are still untouched.
She may sell to one syndicate
the right to build railroads,
to another the right to open
mines, to another banking privileges,
and so on through the long list
of franchises, which she controls
and which the world wants to
buy. The results of this plan
while furnishing ready money
would also be beneficent to all
her people.
I do not pretend to say that
China will act thus wisely,
but there is no doubt that this
line

line of policy will be suggested by interested capitalists.
My present purpose is simply to suggest to American capitalists, rail-road men, ship-builders, bankers, and merchants to consider the desirability of securing for themselves the great franchises to which I have alluded.
The course of events, controlled to a great extent by the President and yourself, has given to the United States an enormous prestige and an overshadowing influence in China.
It is to be supposed that the influence secured by diplomatic work would assist our countrymen in securing commercial

privileges

privileges.

There would, no doubt, be combinations to form, rivalry with other nations to conciliate, partitions with them, perhaps, to be made.

The capitalist understands these things better than I do. At all events this is not the time to enter on the discussion of details.

I submit the whole question to your better judgment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Enclosure
Filed in Bureau of
Statistics. March 4

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 3 1895

No. 2073

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 26, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 2 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Forwarding Customs Gazette.

No. 2073

Legation of the United State
Peking, December 26, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have forwarded to you under separate cover Statistical Series No. 2. Customs Gazette No. 103 July - September 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
DEC 28 1894
DEPT. OF STATE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. in cipher.

DEC 28 1894

From Pekin (confirmed Jan 8/95)

December 27, 1894.

Received 7:23 P. M.

Gresham

Washington

December 27. Japan will appoint plenipotentiaries to meet at Hiroshima. The conditions of armistice in the event of Japan granting one to be made known to China when plenipotentiaries meet.

Denby

DIPLOMATIC AU.
MAR 4 1895
2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2074

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 27, 1894.

INDEXED
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
War news.

Synopsis
Demoralization of Chinese troops.
Towns pillaged by them.

No 2074

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 27, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

The war news which reaches me from the North is of a conflicting character and consists mostly of rumors. Through it all, however, runs the terrible story of the demoralization and cowardice of the Chinese.

Nevertheless, it is said that at the battle which resulted in the fall of Sze-mun-cheng, the Chinese

Chinese troops numbering from fifteen to twenty thousand, were more united than usual, and fought with great resolution inflicting and receiving severe loss. This battle commenced on the evening of the eleventh instant, and terminated in the afternoon of the twelfth. The troops engaged were in three divisions: Fengtien troops under Tieh; Manchu troops under Feng; Chihli troops under Ma.

This last general is said to have fought bravely at Pingyang. Sze-mien-cheng was burned during the engagement, and its inhabitants suffered greatly from fire and cold.

The

The Chinese troops retired by way of Haicheng followed by the Japanese, who occupied it without resistance on the thirteenth instant.
Finding the gates closed they fired one cannon; the gates were then opened and they marched in, but did no harm to the inhabitants.
The Chinese troops are said to have retired partly to the North partly to Ta-shih-chiao. General Sung left Kaichow on the 14th, having received orders from the throne, through the Provincial authorities, to abandon the southern towns, and concentrate his forces at Liaoyang and Mukden. Yenchwang has been occupied by the Japanese. The Chinese pillaged it before they left. The place

place is not to be confounded with
Newchwang.
General Sung left Kaichow for
Ta Shih-chiao. As soon as he
left Kaichow the Ningchuan troops
pillaged the pawn shops.
Frankden is reported to be in constant
disorder. Incessant hawks take
place between the northern and
southern Manchu troops, and the
former have pillaged all the shops
in the outer city.
At Newchwang where the Petrel is,
fifteen hundred ruffians are said to
be distributed in the port and outside
waiting for an opportunity to fire
and burn the Chinese town.
It is said that the distress, despair,
and destitution of the people in the
towns

towns, and villages, in which the Chinese troops have been quartered are so great that peace is almost sure to be followed by an insurrection of those who survive this winter. The Consul at Newchwang, who sends this information, writes that it is probable that two Japanese armies will meet at Mukden. The Chinese army, numbering thirty thousand, holds the country between Newchwang and Ta Shih Chiao. Ammunition is constantly going forward from Newchwang to the front, and skirmishes are frequent.

At Haicheng it is said the Japanese placed sentinels to guard the Missions.

Some

Some cadedges belonging to the Chinese troops, who were defeated at South Kinchow, have been examined on the "Petrel" and found to be quite up to standard. The Heads of the Guild applied to the Consuls at Newchwang to telegraph to Peking to have that place, like Shanghai, declared outside the sphere of warlike operations. On being informed that the case were different, they were much dejected, and said that occupation of the port by the Japanese would ruin its trade for three, or four years.

The Consul writes that he is inclined to believe that the Japanese will not attempt to occupy

Newchwang

Newchwang before March, and that there is no fear of a disturbance by the rowdies as long as the magistrates remain at their post.

There is a report here to-day that the Japanese have landed in the province of Shantung. That means that they intend to take Wei-hai-wei, and to destroy the Chinese fleet. I did not wire because Admiral Carpenter is at Chefoo, and if it be true he has no doubt already wired to the Secretary of the Navy

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 3 1895

No. 2075

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 27, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Peace negotiations

Synopsis
Confirms telegram.

No 2075

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 27, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

December 27th.

Gresham,
Washington.

Japan will appoint plenipotentiaries to meet at Hiroshima. The conditions of armistice in the event of Japan granting one to be made known to China when plenipotentiaries meet.

Derby.

6

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. with 2082, by subject, as rec'd March 1021, of Feb 28 clo
APR 9 1895

Secretary of State.
MAR 4 1895

No. 2076

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 29, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD
MAR 11 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Rec'd
10 Apr. 95

Subject.

Bringing maimed to Peking.

Synopsis

Collective note to Yamên. Yamên still denies the right. Another joint note to Yamên claiming right.

Three enclosures.

6

No. 2076.

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 29, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

In my despatch No. 2064 of the 18th instant I enclosed a translation of a collective note sent by the foreign Representatives to the Tsungli Yamên relating to the right of the Legations to have guards or escorts at Peking, together with a translation of the reply of the Yamên thereto. I have now the honor to enclose

1/076

a

a translation of a second collective note on the same subject, and

2/2076 a translation of the answer of the Yamên.

Your telegram of the 19th instant authorizes me to direct that American marines be brought to Peking in the event that China is unable to afford protection to Americans resident here, and provided that other powers exercise this right.

There is no trouble about the second proposition. All the ministers would probably immediately order their troops to come to Peking if I consented to give the same order.

As to the first proposition the answer

answer must depend on events as they happen.

China may a may not be able to protect foreigners. Her ability to do so depends on the conditions that the war, or approaching peace may develop.

Knowing that this despatch will not reach you until after facts shall be accomplished it seems unnecessary to borrow from the future.

A grave responsibility rests on me and I will meet it the best I can, trusting to your uniform kindness to consider favorably to me my conduct in the extraordinary circumstances which surround me.

Since writing the above the foreign

Representatives

Representative have sent another collection note to the Yamen of which a translation is enclosed.

3/2076

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Peking, December 21, 1894.

Messieurs les Ministres.

The right invoked in our collective note of the 16th December rests in the articles III II II V III II III of the Treaties made respectively from 1858 to 1866 between China and Great Britain, France, Russia, the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain and Belgium.

Several Legations using the right which was recognized "not to be restrained either in the choice or employment of their employees, couriers, interpreters, servants etc. etc." have had during long years, some an escort others an escort or a guard exclusively engaged in their service. The Legations of Great Britain and Russia have had since 1861, a guard in their service, which more a less numerous according to the times, has been maintained until now. The French Legation has had since 1861 until 1874 a

like

like guard, and has always reserved the right to have one.
The German Legation has had since 1868 a guard of constables.
Standing on this right and wishing our Governments desirous of securing effectually under present circumstances the services of an interior and police guard for the Legations have instructed us to assemble at Tientsin a certain number of men taken from the crews of men-of-war and awaiting only our order to come to Peking to fulfill the functions for which they are intended.
Our strict duty is to hold ourselves to execute the instructions of our Governments and that is why again we beg Your Highnesses and Excellencies to arrange by such manner as may appear the most proper to prevent all unjustified alarm or suspicion that our men may make the journey from Tientsin to Peking.

I still

Their Highnesses
Princes Kung and Ching
and their Excellencies
Messieurs les Ministres of the
Tsungli Yamen,
Peking.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 61 December 24, 1894.

Upon the 21st December the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication signed by Your Excellency and Your Colleagues stating that the right invoked in the collective communication of the 16th instant rests on the Articles III II III V III III II III of the Treaties made respectively from 1858 @ 1861 between China and Great Britain, France, Russia, the United States, Germany, Italy Spain and Belgium.

Several of the Legations using the right which was recognized not to be restrained either in the choice or employment of their employes, couriers, interpreters, servants, etc. etc. have had during long years some an escort, others an escort or a guard exclusively engaged

engaged in their service. Standing on this right and under Your Government's desirous of securing effectually under present circumstances the services of a guard for the Legations have instructed you to assemble at Tientsin a certain number of men from the men-of-war, and waiting only orders to come to Peking etc. etc. From the terms of the Treaties the Government of China is to protect the Foreign Legations in Peking and it has been clearly set forth that China will escort herself and can bear the responsibility of affording due protection.

As to the employment of couriers, interpriters, servants etc. this can be done at pleasure and without any hindrance whatever. This article refers to Chinese. There is nothing in the treaties authorizing at pleasure the selection and bringing up of soldiers for the protection

protection of the Legations. The meaning put on the treaties cited in the communication under acknowledgment is by no means like the meaning of the original text; it is necessarily a wrong interpretation.

As to the observation made that some of the Legations have had guards and some were maintained until now, these may be regarded as escorts numbering from one to two soldiers, and are allowed, but to bring up a detachment of soldiers for the protection of the Legations is a thing hitherto unknown. His Majesty has issued a special Decree deputing soldiers for the purpose of protecting the various Legations and there should be sufficient to pacify the minds of the people and suppress disorder.

The Prince and Ministers again Express the hope that Your Excellency will consider - the Government

of

of China's purpose is to exert herself and that she is able to bear the responsibility of affording due protection and that he will not order any troops to Peking in accordance with the stipulations of treaty.

A necessary communication addressed to H. Ex.

Charles Denby.

Peking, the 27th December 1894.

Messeigneurs
Messieurs les Ministres:

We have individually received your answer to our collective note on the subject of our right to bring to Peking guards for our Legations.
Nothing remains to be done except to give you notice that each one of us will exercise the right to bring guards from Tientsin to Peking when in his opinion it is necessary to do so for the protection of his fellow nationals or of his Legation - the Chinese Government still remaining as it ought to be responsible for the safety of these men while they are en route.
In so doing we obey the instructions of our respective Governments. We renew to Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies the assurance of our very high consideration.

Signed
by

by

Charles Denby	United States
Count Cassini	Russia
N. R. O'Conor	Great Britain
Schenck	Germany
A. Gérard	France
A. Bardi	Italy
Henry Lemmyer	Belgium
Y. Llabria	Spain

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Copy

From Peking,

December 29, 1894.

Gresham,

Washington.

December twenty-ninth. Three meetings diplomatic body on question of troops. Long correspondence with Yamen. Ministers insist upon right. It is likely that Russia, France, Italy bring troops. England has now fifteen here and will bring more. I have not yet concluded to order troops. Must have right if necessary. If Emperor leaves no reliance on protection of this government. Anarchy will ensue. Seventy-five Americans here.

Denby.

Deupl.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895
2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2077.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 29, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Lin Kuin-i appointed Generalissimo of all the Chinese forces.

Synopsis

An old man. Addicted to opium.

One enclosure.

No. 2077.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 29, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

1/2077 I have the honor to enclose a translation of a decree appointing Lin Kuin-i Generalissimo of all the Chinese forces. This gentleman is an old man, is said to be addicted to the opium habit. He had some experience in warfare during the Tai ping rebellion. His chief and, perhaps, only recommendation

recommendation is that he comes from Hunan the most warlike province in China.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

A Decree published in the Manuscript Gazette December 28th, 1874.

Let Lin-Kuin-i, Governor General of Kanking, be appointed Imperial Commissioner and Generalissimo of all our forces whether engaged in offensive & defensive operations inside & outside of the Great Wall.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 9 1895

Secretary of State.
MAR 4 1895

No 2078

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 29, 1894

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aab
APR 9 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject.
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis
Encloses translations of two telegrams wherein Japan fixes Hiroshima as the place of negotiating treaty. Remarks on that locality.

One enclosure.

No 2078

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 29, 1894

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State.
Washington D.C.

Sir:

1/2078 I have the honor to enclose copies of the translations of two cipher telegrams received from the American Minister at Tokyo the 27th instant relating to peace negotiations.
I had these translated into Chinese and took the translations to the Yamen the 27th instant at five o'clock.

Conger

Princes Kung and Ching were
not present.
The Yamên greatly objected to
the refusal of Japan to name
her plenipotentiaries, and thereupon
to grant an armistice, as well as
to the implication contained in
her despatch that she might not
grant an armistice at all.
They took time to consider what
answer to make. In my
opinion Japan is rather avoiding
the role of conqueror. She knows
China, and Chinese peculiarities,
as well as the Chinese know
themselves. Yet she seems to
take especial pleasure in
shocking Chinese pride and
making China lose face.

To

To name her plenipotentiaries would be a slight concession to the dignity of China. To promise to grant an armistice, even on conditions stated, would greatly relieve this panic stricken people. If the war goes on, the overthrow of the dynasty, and even anarchy, may supervene. Possibly, the views of Japan contemplate the putting of a Chinese on the throne who will be subservient to her will. There are three millions and a half of Manchus. Compared with the number of the Chinese they are a mere drop in the bucket. They are a degenerate race, drawing pay here at Peking from

from the throne and doing absolutely nothing.

As soldiers they have proved worthless.

It is not at all unlikely that a disastrous peace will be followed by an insurrection.

It is to be noted that the place of negotiating the treaty - Hiroshima - has been selected with the evident purpose of isolating the Chinese plenipotentiaries. This town is very strongly fortified and heavily garrisoned. There are no foreigners living there, and usually none are allowed to stay there. When a stray foreigner arrives the Japanese authorities instruct the inn-keeper to

to say that he has no room for him and he quietly move on. Passports are required to go to the place and are said to be procured.

During the negotiations all foreigners will, no doubt, be excluded. Telegraphing will be difficult for the Chinese plenipotentiaries. I fear that they will be practically prisoners. The two envoys will be almost powerless without foreign assistance. I have advised the one who is here, Chang-Yin-Huan, to take interpreters and if possible a foreign legal adviser from Shanghai. I have gave doubts as to whether

whether the negotiations will result in peace, but my work is practically done.

I have at this end brought the two nations together after surmounting difficulties which I cannot describe without writing a book.

Up to the present writing I have had nothing from the Yamên since my last interview and I conclude to mail this dispatch.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Translations

[Telegrams received in cipher.]

First telegram

Tokyo, December 26, 1894.

American Minister,

Peking.

Your cipher telegram dated December 20th has been received. The Japanese Government will appoint plenipotentiaries a plenipotentiary with full power to conclude peace with the plenipotentiaries named by China. The Japanese Government select Hiroshima as the place of meeting of the plenipotentiaries, such meeting to take place within forty eight hours after the arrival of the Chinese plenipotentiaries at Hiroshima. The exact time and place of meeting to be notified to the Chinese plenipotentiaries as soon as possible after their arrival at Hiroshima. The Chinese Government to notify the Japanese Government in advance of the dates of departure from China

and

and of probable arrival at Hiroshima of the Chinese plenipotentiaries. The conditions of an armistice in the event that the Japanese Government should conclude to grant one will be made known after the meeting of the plenipotentiaries.

Dun.

Second Telegram.

Tokyo, December 26, 1894.

American Minister,

Peking.

The Japanese Minister for foreign affairs desires that the date of departure from Peking of Chinese plenipotentiaries be telegraphed as soon as possible in order that Japanese Government may make arrangements for their proper reception.

Dun.

Desby to State

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 2 1895

No 2079

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 31, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegram of the 29th instant relating to the bringing of troops to Peking.

No 2079

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 31, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of the 29th instant relating to the bringing of troops to Peking.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

Peking, December 29, 1894.

Gresham,

Washington.

Three meetings Diplomatic body on question of troops. Long correspondence with Yamên. Ministers insist on right. Most likely that Russia, France, Italy will bring troops. England has now fifteen here and will bring more. I have not yet concluded to order troops. Must have right if necessary. If Emperor loses reliance on protection of this government. Anarchy will ensue. Seventy-five Americans here.

Denby.

No 2080

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 2 1895

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 31, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject.

Confirms Department's telegram relating to the bringing of troops to Peking.

No 2080

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 28th instant relating to the bringing of troops to Peking.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher.]

Washington, December 28, 1894.

Denby Minister,

Peking.

Chinese Government through Minister says Legation will be protected and that presence of foreign troops at your request would aggravate situation. Have other Legations asked permission for troops?

Gresham.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. MAR 4 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2081

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31st, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State,

Subject
Enclosing translation of telegram
to American Minister, Tokyo.

No 2081

Legation of the United States

Peking, December 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that on the 29th instant I sent to Japan through the American Minister at Tokyo a telegram of which a copy is appended on the overleaf.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

[over]

[Copy of telegram]

Peking, December 29, 1894.

American Minister,

Tokyo.

China wishes to know the name and rank of the plenipotentiary or plenipotentiaries Japan will appoint, also enquires of the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs to state clearly the place or port the Chinese plenipotentiaries will land at in Japan to reach Hiroshima. China asks Japan to answer by telegraph to the end that it may be convenient for the Chinese plenipotentiaries to fix the time for their departure for Japan.

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

MAR 4 1895

No. 2082

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31, 1894.

INDEXED
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Hon. Dearby to the
Secretary of State.

Acct. 10 April 95

Subject.
Bringing troops to Peking

Synopsis
Russians tried to bring up troops.
Discussion with Yamên.
Necessity therefor. Minister has not concluded to order them hither.

No. 2082

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

On the question of bringing marines to Peking I have already sent to you four despatches; viz Nº 2060 of the 13th instant; Nº 2064 of the 18th instant; Nº 2065 of the 20th instant and Nº 2076 of the 29th instant. I am, nevertheless, induced by your telegram of the 28th instant to add something to what

what has already been said.
You have been informed that the
Russian Minister engaged cars
at Tientsin and ordered fifty
marines to come to Peking. After
Li Hung Chang refused to
allow these men to proceed to
Peking a diplomatic meeting
was called at the instance of
the Russian Minister. It resulted
in certain correspondence which
has been forwarded to you. The
German Minister and myself
were the only foreign ministers
who refused to order at this time
marines to Peking. Very great
pressure was brought to bear
upon us by our colleagues
to induce us to consent to bring
troops

troops hither immediately. I refused because I thought that the pending peace negotiations might deter the Japanese from coming to Peking. It is concluded here on every hand that if the Japanese do march on this city, the Empress, his Court and all the respectable people will flee. The city will be in the hands of a mob, and naturally the first attack will be made on the foreigners. It is stated that there are hundreds of carts, and thousands of mules already prepared to move the imperial court. It is stated, also, that many wealthy people have left the city. I cannot verify these reports personally. What I

I do know is that two persons
have applied to this Legation
to enquire whether they should
leave or send their families away.
As long as the foreigners stay
here the most of the respectable
Chinese will stay. An exodus of
foreigners would be followed by
the desertion of the city by every
person who has the means to get
away. At the last and when
danger is present it is questionable
whether any person will be
able without an armed escort to
reach Tientsin. Then are cases
reported in the papers of whole
families being murdered while
travelling from Fenkden.
My colleagues agree that we
should

should have escorts or guards
here to protect us in case we
want to leave.
If the minister of Russia had
not unfortunately precipitated
this question on us the whole
affair could have easily been
managed.
The British minister from time
to time has had men, now
numbering fifteen, come up
with travelers and with himself
and Mrs O'Conor. They are in
his Legation and no attention
has been called to them. Others
could have done the same
thing. I never intended to
ask the Chinese Government
any question on the subject,
but

but to smuggle my men up by twos and threes, until about twenty five arrived. Now that the matter has been publicly discussed there is no possible issue except that China must yield.

You will scarcely imagine that the foreign representatives have not weighed the matter in all its bearings. We know better than any body else the possible dangers, inconveniences, and even the "aggravation" mentioned in your telegram. Nevertheless the all important fact remains that the situation may be such that every foreigner in Peking may be murdered by a mob, unless

unless there is protection secured.
It is easy to say to us to
leave and seek protection at
Tientsin. I have already stated
that in a moment of imminent
danger the going would be
as dangerous as the staying.
But apart from that I am
not prepared to abandon my
post. I am not clothed with the
authority to direct my fellow-
citizens to leave. Tientsin is
crowded - where could they
go? Travelling at this season
is difficult for women and
children. Breaking up homes
and stopping all work are
unpleasant things to do. In
the absence of the owners, their
property

property in case of a riot
violence, would surely be
destroyed.
My own position is one of
very grave responsibility. I
have had communications from
Tungcho and Trumhua asking
protection. If I tell our people
to leave and no trouble ensues
I will be stared and ridiculed
all over the world. If I tell
them to stay, and trouble does
ensue, and I have not used
what means I had to protect
them I will be called a
murderer.
The only course left to me is to
bring up troops, if I can,
whenever I become satisfied
that

that there is imminent danger of
riot violence here.
I shall when that contingency
arises certainly exercise the
authority granted by the Secretary
of the Navy unless I receive
different instructions from you.
The expense, the trouble, the danger
from the Chinese government will
be as nothing compared with the
overpowering duty to do what I
can to protect my fellow-citizens
at Peking.
I should be greatly humiliated
if a riot were to occur here, and
after all the premonition that I have
had, Americans should be
compelled to rely on foreigners
for protection. I should have
mentioned

No 2083.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, December 31st 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my dispatch No 2039 of the 30th November wherein I informed you of the present to her Majesty the Empress Dowager by the Protestant ladies of China of a Testament, I have now the honor to state that the Empress sent for distribution among the donors twenty bolts of silk, some handkerchiefs, and some

some ornaments.

As soon as the Emperor saw the Testament he sent to the Agent of the Bible Society here an order for one New Testament and one Old Testament.

The stock of books on hand was shortly afterward bought up by Chinese.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Confidential.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 27 1895

Secretary of State
3 Copies
MAR 4 1895

No. 2084

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 31st, 1894.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Acc. 28 Mch. 95. m

The Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Japanese Spies.

Synopsis
Hundreds of young officers were detailed to do topographical and other work in China.

No. 2084

Legation of the United States
Peking, December 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I request that this dispatch be treated, so far as publication thereof may be concerned; as secret and confidential.

Chance has thrown in my way certain and reliable information touching the procedure of Japan as to keeping spies in China, the sources whereof I do not wish, for various satisfactory

satisfactory reasons, to divulge. This information, I think you will agree with me, tends greatly to show that a vast amount of undeserved sympathy has been wasted on Japanese spies, both in our own country and in this.

Long prior to this war Japan filled China with regularly detailed military officers, who had been taught carefully the art of military surveying. These young men permeated every part of China under various disguises and studied minutely the topography of the forts and of the country. Thirty of them went to Shanghai ostensibly to study the

the conditions of trade.
A Chinese-Japanese school was organized and kept up for several years. You know that until very lately the mercantile class was looked down upon in Japan and held inferior to the military class.
When these young officers were detailed for this work they were greatly chaffed by their companions at Hiroshima because they were going to become merchants. I have it on the best authority that one of the alleged Japanese spies who was arrested at Shanghai, and one whose fate so many tears have been shed, was one of these detailed

officers.

officer.

I have been informed that the Japanese had spies in every village which was likely to be touched by warlike operations. These men opened stores, passed for Buddhist priests, or were sometimes common laborers. Lists were made of Chinese who could be relied on and they were employed and paid by the Japanese.

I believe that many such men were engaged by the Japanese at Peking, and it is reported that fifty of them have been arrested. One of them, I am now inclined to think, is a man who was employed by this Legation to

to guard Japanese property.
Maps were made of a great portion of China. So successfully was this work done that at Hiroshima, in one of the lecture rooms for the military and naval cadets, there was a complete model of Port Arthur. There was a bridge across the middle of it, and on this bridge an instructor stood daily and explained to three, four, and even sometimes five classes the plan and condition of the forts.
The last official list of Japanese military officers shows that two hundred and ninety men were detailed for service abroad. Of these two hundred and fifty were employed in China.

Looking

Looking back we can now see that there was a wonderful amount of commercial and scientific traveling done by the Japanese in northern China. It attracted no particular attention then, not as much as did divers parties of Russians, who were ostensibly geologists, mineralogists, or something Scientific. It is safe to say now that the present war was foreseen and prepared for by Japan several years ago.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

1

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU MAR 5 1895

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. the enclosed petition not received here.
aad
MAR 5 1895

No 2085

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 2nd, 1895

Rec'd 6 March 95 ✓ Ack'd

INDEXED BUREAU RECD. MAR 1 1895 DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Petition for new Treaty.

Synopsis

Missionaries ask that new treaty be made. Minister desires to be notified should any action be taken.

No 2085

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 2nd, 1895

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a copy of a Petition to the President and Senate prepared by the American Missionaries in China asking that a new treaty be made distinctly affirming their right to reside and hold property in the interior and for other purposes.

My opinion on the various points stated

stated was asked.
I have answered that under article 64 of the Diplomatic Instructions I am forbidden to correspond on public matters" with any person other than the proper officers of the United States."
In the event that the subject matter of the petition be considered by the Department I have to request that I be notified thereof so that I may offer some views on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aag
MAR 4 1895

No. 2086

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 2nd, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECVD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

Subject
Peace negotiations

Synopsis
Japan declines to name her plenipotentiaries in advance. The information got by personal telegram from Mr. Dun.

No. 2086

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 2nd, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I append on the overleaf a translation of a cipher telegram received the first instant from Japan. It will be seen that Japan officially declines to make known to China in advance of the arrival of the Chinese plenipotentiaries the names of the plenipotentiaries.

I realized that this would be

a

a sore point with the Government of China, which clings to formalities as the most important parts of all transactions. A refusal would, I knew, be regarded as an affront, or, as the Chinese would say, loss of face.

I, therefore, wired Mr. Dunn personally that I was greatly embarrassed by the refusal of Japan to yield the slightest point to China, and I urged that the names of the Japanese plenipotentiaries should be furnished.

Together with the telegram copied herein, I received a personal one from Mr. Dunn, wherein he informed

informed me that he had confidentially communicated the substance of my telegram to the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had expressed his regret that he could not retrieve my embarrassment. The Minister, however, in the conversation informed Mr. Dun that he would himself conduct the negotiations, and that if there were two plenipotentiaries the other would be a Minister of State.

Mr. Dun stated that I could rely on this information. Thus diplomatically was the question solved. I will probably see the Gamin to-day and will report anything of interest that may occur.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Translation

[Copy of telegram received in cipher]

Tokyo, December 31st. 3:45 P.M.

American Minister,

Peking.

December 31st Telegram of 29th instant received. Japanese Government reply as follows:

Japanese Government intend to appoint their Plenipotentiary or Plenipotentiaries of proper rank and official position to meet the Chinese plenipotentiaries immediately upon their arrival in Japan.

Japanese Government do not see the necessity of notifying beforehand to Chinese Government the name and rank of the

Japanese

Japanese plenipotentiary a
plenipotentiaries.
It is convenient that the Chinese
plenipotentiaries will arrive at
Shimonoseki on board a
vessel under a neutral flag
and there to be met by some
Japanese officials who will
make all necessary arrangements
for them to facilitate their journey
therefrom to Hiroshima.
Dun.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Peking January 3, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

January third. I have always opposed bringing Marines while my colleagues before insisted on doing so. I insist now only on the right. I will order none unless others do and not then unless necessary.

Denby.

Peking January 3, 1899.

Personal.

Washington.

January third. I have always opposed bringing Marines while my colleagues insisted ? doing so. I insist now only on the right. I will order none unless others do and not then unless necessary.

Conby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 5 1895

No 2087

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 3, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Rec'd 6 March 95

Subject
Ashmore's land case

Synopsis
Presentation thereof enclosed

One enclosure.

No. 2087

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 3, 1895

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

1/3

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication which was sent by me to the Yamên the 24th instant relating to the claim of Rev. William Ashmore D.D. of Swatow, to a piece of foreshore land which has in the course of years been made by accretion. The question of the ownership of land made by accretion is a

a difficult one in China, but the title of Dr Ashmore, fortunately, does not rest on either a right of accretion a prescription. It is securely founded, as you will see upon an agreement called "The Swatow Bund Scheme" which was approved by the local authorities and carried out by the adjoining proprietors. There are dozens of papers Chinese and English on file here relating to this claim, which I deem it unnecessary to forward.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to call your attention again to the land case of Dr Ashmore which has been the subject of discussion between you and this Legation both orally and in the following cited written communications: May 14th - 17th; July 17th; Sept. 11th and 22nd.

I briefly review the facts which are proven by documentary evidence on file in this Legation and will be submitted to your inspector whenever you desire to examine it.

First

His Original Title Deed

was given to him by special order of the Tao Tai in exchange for a title deed which he held for a piece of ground near the fort and which he agreed to surrender as a favor to the Chinese authorities. This deed is dated Tung Chih 9th year 12th month 5th day (corresponding to January 14th 1872). It is recorded

in

in the United States Consulate. It conveyed a foreshore lot and guaranteed former foreshore rights and privileges. It provided that nobody on the east or west side should be allowed to fill out beyond his front so as to imperil the depth of water. It also contained two special receipts not to delf water.

II

The decree of the Viceroy.

This decree gave special effect to a certain agreement and regulations made in regard to what was officially styled "The Swatow Bund Scheme" by the Chinese authorities. It was set forth in a plan dated October 29, 1882 and was signed by all the lot holders, and the claimant. The Viceroy approved it January 30, 1885.

By the terms of this agreement thus made binding the owners of foreshore lots were authorized to fill out and reclaim in front of their own lots up

up to a red line fixed upon for the bund and indicated on a sketch map in my possession. The owners were to construct at their own expense each in front of his own premises a bund 30 feet wide to be thrown open to public use. As a remuneration therefor they were to be entitled to all land of the thirty feet and were to have deeds therefor free of all fees, and subject only to the payment of annual taxes. I have copies of this agreement.

III

An official communication from the Tao Tai

This communication stated that the Viceroy had sanctioned the "Bund Scheme" and that "the work of filling may be commenced immediately." The claimant was notified of this communication February 27, 1885. I have a copy of it.

IV

An

An authorization for the claimant to fill out sent officially by the Chinghai magistrate.

This was sent to him May 13, 1885, and authorized him to fill out to the red line above mentioned as soon as he pleased.

V

A map of the land as marked out for construction in front of the claimants ground.

This map was made by a man who was appointed by the Chinese government to make it. After making it he superintended the construction of the land. His name was Asville and he was throughout the agent of China. I have a copy of this map.

VI

A general map of Swatow

This map shows that lines outward were extensions of line back, and the claimant did not deviate from the universal

map

usage in running out his lines on the east and west sides.

VII

A copy of a proclamation of Go Tao Tai issued after the west wall of claimant's original filling had been completed.
In that proclamation his wall and his filling were fully recognized. The same has been engraved on a stone tablet. In giving a piece of mud flat to the Guild Hall it was described as "along side of the ground of the American Teacher," and that "it began from the filling" made by him. I have this copy.

VIII

Taxes

The claimant has paid taxes on the rear part of this ground more than twenty years, and on all the subsequent fillings, and on all the buildings situated thereon.
As fast as buildings were made

taxes

taxes were assessed; at first 61,000 cash additional and then 40,000 more.

IX

Possession

In all countries long possession gives title.

The claimant has been in possession of this property for nearly twenty three years.

I submit to you that in view of these overwhelming facts there cannot be the least question that the claimant has a perfect title to the land claimed by him.

A long residence in China has induced me to believe that although her laws differ from Eastern countries the equity and justice which Confucius taught prevailed in her borders. I make my appeal to your sense of right. Time has sanctioned the claimant's right and as it has not been questioned for many years it

it has cannot be questioned now.
But leaving long occupation out
of the question his title is proved
by his contestable evidence.
Apart from that not a shadow
of proof has been produced against
him. The Guild Hall has not offered
any evidence to sustain its
outrageous claim.
If there were nothing in this case
except the specific grant made
by the Viceroy above mentioned
that is sufficient. It gives finally,
completely and absolutely to the
claimant ownership of all the
property in front of the original
purchase and all within the
extension straight outward of
the inside East and West lines.
This concession of ownership was
based also on a communication.
The claimant carried out the
agreement set out in the "Bund
Scheme".
The title of the claimant ought

to

to be immediately confirmed. The local authorities ought to be required immediately to make to him proper and perfect papers and that without any charge for fees as was ordered by the Viceroy.

If this written statement which I carefully prepared does not induce you to do quick justice to an American citizen, who has never done anything but good to China, I must ask a personal interview. I will show you the papers above referred to, and by these papers I will incontestably prove that the claim of Dr Ashmore is just and ought to be immediately granted.

Held by Asst Sec.

No. 2088

DIPLOMATIC BUR
MAR 2 1895
2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
MAR 4 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Confirms telegram of to-day relating to bringing marines to Peking.

No. 2088

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 3, 1895

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of to-day relating to the bringing of marines to Peking.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher.]

Gresham,

Washington.

January 3rd, 1895.

I have always opposed hanging marines while my colleagues but one insisted on doing so. I insist now only on the right.
I will order none unless others do, and not then unless necessary.

Denby.

Order No File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

No. 2089

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 3rd, 1895

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Confirming Department's telegram relating to the bringing of marines to Peking.

No. 2089

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 3rd, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 2d instant relating to hinging mariner to Peking.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher]

Denby Minister,

Peking.

January 2, 1895.

Not perceived why you should stay unadvised. Emperor leaves and you are not expected to remain while danger seems imminent or threatening president thinks Carpentier opposition to sending marines reasonable and expects that in no event will you insist upon marines unless other Legations do.

Gresham.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ask by Number and File
APR 3 1895
Secretary of State.
MAR 4 1895

No. 2090

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 4th, 1895.

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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 3 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Shao Yu-lien.

Synopsis
Appointment as plenipotentiary
to Japan criticized.

No. 2090

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 4th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

The appointment of Shao Yu lien as one of the Plenipotentiaries to make peace will probably have struck you as extraordinary. He was lately Governor of Formosa; and issued the proclamation offering rewards for Japanese heads. When I received from the Yamên the notification that Shao Yu lien had been appointed, I hesitated

to

to send his name to Japan before I explained that he might not be received. There had been considerable delay in the appointing of plenipotentiaries. As I was certain that the Yamên knew of all Shao's official acts, I came to the conclusion that they had some purpose to serve in making the appointment, and that the withdrawal of his name by me would not be well received. I, accordingly, transmitted the Yamên's message just as it came to hand. The next day, however, I took the precaution to inform Mr. Chang Yin Huan that it was likely that Shao would not be received. Nothing came of this suggestion.

Either

Either the Yamên became convinced
that Shao was not responsible
for the objectionable proclamation,
or relied on Japan's ignorance
as to the matter, or wanted time
I mention the circumstance because
you might imagine that I had
overlooked it. All the circumstances
were explained to the Yamên in
sufficient time to prevent any
inconvenience by substituting
another name, but they deliberately
chose to take the risk of a
refusal by Japan to receive
Shao, and my skirts are clear.
Apart from the barbarous
proclamation, which Shao
undoubtedly issued, his record
is good. He is a native of
Chekiang

Chekiang, a provincial graduate, former Secretary of the Tsungli Yamin, Secretary of Legation at Petersburg, Taotai at Shanghai in 1882, provincial judge of Kiang-Si, Governor of Formosa, acting Governor of Hunan. I made his acquaintance at Peking and formed a high opinion of his ability.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Pekin

Jany 7. , 1895.

Received 9 15 A.M.

Gresham

Washington

D.C.

January 7. Chang Yin Huan left today for Japan. He goes by Shan Hai Kuan. Will join Shao Yu-Lien. They have assumed prisoner

Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 3 1895

No 2091

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 7th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject
Peace negotiations

Synopsis
Confirms telegram as to departure
of Chang Yin Huan for Japan.

No 2091

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 7, 1895

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram relating to the departure of Chang Yin Huan for Japan.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher.]

January 7th.

Gresham,

Washington.

Chang Yin huan left to-day for Japan. He goes by Shan Hai kuan. Will join Shai Yu lien at Shanghai.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
MAR 4 1895

No. 2092

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 7, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

Subject

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis

Departure of Chang Yin Huan for Japan.

No 2092

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 7. 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of a telegram sent by me to the American Minister at Tokyo relating to the departure of the Plenipotentiary Chang Yin-huan for Japan.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation.

[Telegram sent in cipher]

American Minister,

Tokyo.

January 5th: Chinese Government sends following to Japanese Government. Chang Yin huan leaves Peking on the seventh. Will take steamer under a neutral flag from Shan Hai kuan for Shanghai. He will there join Shao Yu lien and take passage by a neutral flag for Hiroshima. On entering Japanese ports the Chinese national flag will be hoisted in accordance with custom. When the Plenipotentiaries leave Shanghai the American Minister will telegraph you.

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

No 7093.

Secretary's Desk

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 7, 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Acc.
4 "Mch. '95. m

Subject

Wrong numbering of despatches.

Synopsis

Correction of the numbers asked.

№ 2093

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 7, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that by mistake the numbering of my despatches commencing the first of the year was commenced anew. I desire to correct the error. Please number despatches as follows:

Number 1	2085
" 2	2086
" 3	2087

Number

Number 4 2088

" 5 2089

" 6 2090

I have so numbred my dispatches here.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Add. by Number and File.
aaa
APR 6 1895

Secretary of State.
MAR 4 1895

No 2094.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 7, 1895.

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MAR 11 1895
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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 6 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

Torture of alleged Japanese spies.

Synopsis.

Evidence thereof not procurable.
Reports on the subject conflicting.

No 2094.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 7, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

On the receipt of your telegram of December 6th last relating to evidence of the treatment of the two alleged Japanese spies who were arrested at Shanghai, I wired to the Consul General to send to me such evidence. He applied to the Taotai who refused to give him any information

information.

I am now in receipt of a despatch from him wherein he states that he has received from Nanking conflicting reports, but that the general belief among foreigners at the time of the execution of the alleged spies was that they had been tortured. No doubt the despatch Nº 1949 of the Chargé d'Affaires* was founded on general report. At all events there is no evidence on the subject on file here. In this connection I refer to my despatch Nº 2084 of December 31st last.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

* dated Sept 1. 1894. See Ex Doc. Senate 36. page 17

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 2 1895

No 2095

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 8, 1895.

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RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Acknowledgment of despatches.

N° 2095

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 8, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches as follows:

N° 967 of October 31
" 968 " " "
" 969 " November 5.
" 970 " " "
" 971 " " 8
" 972 " " "
" 973 " " 9

N°

№ 974 of November 14
" 975 " " 16.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

No. 2096.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 8th. 1895.

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MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

1 Sheet
Inclosure to Japan. March 4. 9

Subject
Maps of Korea.

Synopsis
Thanks therefor.

№ 2096.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 8, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I greatly thank you for sending to this Legation the maps of Korea mentioned in your despatch № 971 of November 8th last.

I have sent one to the Yamên, one to the Viceroy of Chihli, and have distributed others among my colleagues.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2097

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 9, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Peace negotiations

Synopsis
Sends translation of telegram
from Japan.

No 2097.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 9, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of a cipher telegram received by me from the American Minister at Tokyo relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher]

Tokyo, January 7th, 1895.

American Minister,

Peking.

January seventh: Japanese Government reply as follows to your cipher telegram of January fifth: Japanese Government consent to the arrangement. Reservation the Chinese flag is not to be hoisted until the Japanese official designated for that purpose shall have visited the ship at Shimonoseki and satisfied himself of the presence of the Chinese plenipotentiaries on board.

Dun.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 9 1895

Secretary of State.
MAR 4 1895
2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Add. by Number and File
APR 9 1895

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MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

No 2098.

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 9, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Safety of Americans in the interior

Synopsis

They have been advised to leave, nearly all stayed. No immediate danger apprehended Japanese likely to turn their arms south.

No 2098

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 9th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

By reference to my dispatch No 1988 of October 3rd last, you will see that the suggestion contained in your dispatch No 972 of November 8th last, relative to advising Americans in the interior to remove to Treaty Ports, had been made several weeks before the date of your dispatch. It had very

very little effect. There are, I think, as many Americans in Peking as there ever were. They exercise their own judgment on this subject as on most others. Some express themselves as being unwilling to leave as long as the Catholic missionaries remain at their post; others rely on divine protection; all take it for granted that if trouble comes their Government will protect them.

Generally they do not think that there will be danger of violence in any event. The missionaries living at Tungchow, fourteen miles from Peking, have written to me asking for a

a few mainer and some arms.
I advised them to call on the
local authorities for some native
policemen a soldiers.
The missionaries at Tsunhua
and Kalgan seem to be staying
quietly at their ports.
The five American missions
here are engaged in this medical
work.
It must be remembered that
Americans in China have
generally lived many years in
the country, and are as well
qualified to form opinions as to
the course of events as any other
persons.
Advice to them now from me,
of the nature indicated, would
probably

probably create a panic, not only among our own people but among all foreigners, owing to the prominence I have attained by conducting peace negotiations. My position may become exceedingly difficult. I am not able in advance to state what my action will be. It seems to me now that the Japanese will not come to Peking. It is dangerous to prophesy, but my judgment is that they will send three vast corps d'armée to the South and will occupy Formosa. In that event there will be no great danger to foreigners in this Province.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Entered G.B.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 2 1895

Copy to Files

Sep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Lowry to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
Acknowledgment of commission
and letters of credit.

Sep.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge with profound thanks the receipt of your despatch of November 16th last enclosing my "commission" and "letters of credit".

In reply to your question I have to say that I was born in Peking.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your

Your obedient servant,

Edward K. Lowry.

Second Secretary.

Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2099

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 11 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Yalu Naval Battle.

Synopsis
Returned American student
accorded high posthumous
honors.

One enclosure

No 2099

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 10, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I enclose herewith a clipping from the North China News of the 20th ultimo, which is a translation of an imperial decree issued in honor of those who distinguished themselves at the Yalu Naval battle.

It will be seen that a returned American student, Chi'en

Ch'en Chin-kuei, was accorded high posthumous honors.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of inclosures.

1. Copy of imperial decree

THE YALOO [illegible] BATTLE.

(2) Li Hung-chang [illegible]graphed to us a detailed report of the recent naval battle at Tatungkou, mouth of the Yaloo river, where the vessels of the Peiyang fleet met (17th, September 1894) a numerically superior fleet of the Wojên and defeated them. According to his report, while our ships of war were convoying a fleet of transports to the Yaloo, they were suddenly attacked by the enemy's fleet numbering twelve to our ten, and after a desperate fight lasting six hours, succeeded in sinking three of the enemy's ships and severely injuring the rest, but losing four of our own in the battle. They succeeded, however, in disembarking safely the convoy of land troops and in beating off the enemy. This bravery of our naval officers and men greatly pleases us, while we also feel pity for those who have lost their lives in our cause. With reference to the honoured dead; Tang Shih-ch'ang, Captain of the *Chihyuen*, and Lin Yung-sheng Captain of the *Kingyuen* are granted extraordinary posthumous honours such as are granted to Provincial Commanders-in-Chief. The said Captain Tang further distinguished himself by leading the attack against the enemy and breaking their line of battle, and although destroying an enemy was himself sunk, and, furthermore, although at first saved from a watery grave refused to survive the loss of his ship, but jumped back into the water, is an example of loyalty and bravery by which although dead his deed still lives in our memory to excite enthusiasm. As a further act of grace, we command that a posthumous title of honour be attached to his name. Ch'en Chin-k'uei (a returned American student) first lieutenant of the *Chihyuen* is to be granted the extraordinary posthumous honours allowed to a Brigadier-General, and his family are to be given compensation proportionate thereto. Huang Kien-hsün, Captain of the *Chaoyung*, and Lin Lee-chung, Captain of the *Yangwei* are to be given the posthumous honours granted to officers of their rank i.e., Colonel or Post-Captain in the navy.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2100

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.
War Loan.

Synopsis
Bonds may be used to pay customs dues. Foreign methods adopted.

One enclosure.

No 2100

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10, 1895.

To the Honorable,
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I enclose a clipping from the North China News of the 19th ultimo describing the mode of raising a war loan at Shanghai. The loan is to be on the foreign style of a national debt. The bonds issued may be used by merchants and shippers to pay Customs duties, and

and may be circulated as convertible paper of the Empire. They are to bear the signature of the Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai. Foreigners may subscribe for these bonds.

This whole proceeding is a distinct advance towards foreign methods.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of enclosures

1. Clipping from the North China News, December 19, 1894.

THE CHINESE WAR LOAN.

H.E. Liu, acting Taotai of this port, has in obedience to instructions from H.E. Chang Chih-tung, dated 10th November, issued a proclamation calling upon those native merchants, gentry and notables who have "any love for their country and gratitude for the manifold mercies of their sovereign" to "joyously" subscribe to a war loan "with interest and repayment," having the Imperial consent and being managed with the strictest impartiality and justice. The proclamation goes on to say that it is proposed to raise from Shanghai alone the sum of Tls. 5,000,000, and that any syndicate of men who shall succeed in raising one million taels shall have the privilege of asking for an Imperial autograph tablet to be hung up at the grand hall of any institution they like to name—that is if the said syndicate be composed of men who belong to the managing committee of any charitable association. If they prefer it these subscribers may name one or two of their number for special Imperial recognition. As this loan is to be on the foreign style of a national debt, the managing bureau shall be at the Customs Bank of Shanghai and shall be named the War Loan Bureau of the Board of Revenue for the port of Shanghai. Furthermore, as the bonds thus issued by government may be used by merchants and shippers in lieu of money to pay Customs duties, etc., and in view also that these same bonds may be circulated as convertible paper of the empire, H.E. the Viceroy Chang has obtained the Emperor's consent that the bonds issued at Shanghai to subscribers of the war loan shall also bear the signature of the Commissioner of Customs of Shanghai, in order that the subscribing public may feel satisfied with the guarantee that their bonds may be used as cash in the payment of Customs dues. The Taotai, therefore, in issuing this proclamation, feels sure that the rich and loyal of his countrymen in Shanghai, being aware of the immense sums that will be required to carry the present war with Japan to a successful issue, will joyfully and universally respond to the demands made upon them, and he further guarantees that the subscribers will have no cause to repent of their patriotism, and that the levying of *yamên* fees, or the like, will not be permitted on any account by those in authority. In order to properly protect subscribers, the Taotai has, with the consent of the Viceroy Chang and the Governor K'uei Chün, at Soochow, framed the following five rules for the regulation and information of the [illegible] population of Shanghai and its dependencies.

(1) The Office for the receipt of the proposed war loan shall be situated within the premises of the Customs Bank on Hankow Road and shall be named "The War Loan Bureau of the Board of Revenue for the port of Shanghai." This Bureau shall have for its special object the receiving of the war subscriptions and the issuing of bonds as receipts for same, while the money thus received shall be in the charge of the Customs Bank alone, nor shall any shroffage fees be charged to subscribers.

(2) The silver received shall be weighed in accordance with the standard scale of the Board of Revenue, which is called the *K'u-ping* or "Treasury Scale." As the 98 fineness of the Shanghai tael is less than the *K'u-ping* tael of the Board of Revenue, every one hundred taels of *K'u-ping*, therefore, is equal to 109.60 of Shanghai taels.

(3) The duration of the loan will be as settled upon by the Board of Revenue with the Imperial sanction, namely two years and a-half, and the redemption of the bonds shall take place semi-annually. At the end of the first six months the interest on the bonds only will be paid. After that the redemption of the principal will be divided into four instalments with interest on the bonds in proportion. These periods of redemption will be printed on the bonds, as will also be the amount of interest, which has been fixed at seven per cent. per annum. Additional interest will be paid in the event of intercalary months. If there be any who may desire to use this method of putting out their money at interest as in the ordinary course of business they shall be allowed to follow the regulations in force at Canton with reference to the same war loan, that is to say they shall be allowed to place their money with the government for the period of six years, in which case special bonds will be issued to them.

(4) As the redemption of bonds is to be made by the Customs, subscribers shall also be allowed to pay Customs dues with these bonds. The official seal guaranteeing the performance of the above clause shall be the seal of the Customs Taotai.

(5) The object of these bonds is to make them negociable everywhere. Hence Chinese merchants in their transactions with foreigners may also use them to pay their indebtedness. For this reason the government will only recognise the person who holds the said bonds, irrespective of nationality. A foreigner, therefore, who is in possession of said bonds is just as much entitled to use them for Customs' payments, and to take them to the Customs Bank for the collection of interest due.

Should any of these bonds be accidentally destroyed by fire or water, the owner must notify the same to the War Loan Bureau within five days, giving the numbers of the bonds destroyed and the amount they represent, together with the guarantee of some respectable business firm that his statement is correct.

Special proclamation the 10th day of the 11th moon of the 20th year of the reign of Kuang-hsü (December 6th, 1894).

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 4 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 4 1895

No 2101

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 1 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

New Year's calls of high officials.

Synopsis.

The President's health proposed by Prince Kung and Ching.

No 2101

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 10, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the members of the Tsungli Yamên, the chiefs of the Boards and other high officials called yesterday at this Legation on the occasion of the new year. I append their names on the overleaf.

They came in three batches; Prince Kung accompanied by the

the first, and Prince Ching the second. At the head of the third was Hsu Yung-i, the eldest member of the Yamên. Prince Kung and Prince Ching each proposed with many cordial expressions of gratitude the health of the President of the United States, which sentiment was received with the greatest enthusiasm by every person present.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Prince Kung
Prince Ching
Sun Yu wen
Jung Lu } Ministers of the
Ching Hsin } Tsungli Yamên
Liao Shou-heng
Hsu Ying-i
Wang Wen-shao

Lin shu President of Board Civil Office
Chung Kwang Vice President Do. Do.
Chang Yin Tuan Do Do. Do.
Wêng Tung ho President Board of Revenue
Li Shan Vice " " " "
Chang Yin " " " " "
Chen Hsieh fen " " " " "
Hsui Ta fu President Board of Works
Yung nien Vice " " " "
Chi Hsin President Colonial Office
Shou Chang Vice " " "

Wen

Wen Lin Vice President Board of Punishments

Kun Kang President Board of Rites

Chien Ying pu Vice President " " "

Pu Shan " " " " "

Yung Lui " " Board of War.

Li Tuan fen " " " " "

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Usual course to Treasury
aab
MAR 7 1895

No. 2102.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 14, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the Secretary of State.

✓ To Treasury
gn March 8/95

Subject:
Bounties on Sugar.

Synopsis:
There are no bounties on sugar in China

No. 2102

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 14, 1895.

To the Honorable Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to reply to the question stated in your dispatch No. 970 of November fifth last as follows:

Question 1: Whether in China a bounty is directly or indirectly paid on the export of sugar?

Answer:

There is no bounty directly or indirectly paid on sugar in China.

Question

Question 2: Whether in China an indirect bounty may be received by either the producer a exporter of sugar, and in what manner and by what officers the same are paid.

Answer: There is no indirect bounty received by either the producer or exporter of sugar in China.

Question 3: Whether there bounties may be waived by the persons entitled thereto, and, if so, what officers are competent to certify to such waiver a non receipt of bounty.

Answer: There are no bounties.

Question 4: It is understood that in some countries sugar is

is subject to excise taxes; and that through the instrumentality of methods used in the assessment, collection and remission of such taxes, certain advantages in the nature of bounties are accorded to those producers of sugar who are most successful in obtaining the greatest quantity of sugar from a given quantity of raw material. If any such system obtains in China such particulars as you may be able to gather in regard thereto will be of special interest.

Answer: There is no excise tax in China which secures any

any advantages to sugar
producers.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Ask file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 19 1895

Secretary of State
MAR 19 1895

No. 2103

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 14, 1895.

Rec'd 20 March '95 m

Mr Denby to the Secretary of State.

Subject:
Appointment of Mr Detring to go to Japan.

Synopsis:
Copy of his credentials. He was, strictly speaking, the envoy of Li Hung Chang.

One enclosure.

No. 2103.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 14, 1895.

To the Honorable Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

There has been a great deal of comment in China and elsewhere on the appointment of Mr. Detring Commissioner of Customs at Tientsin to go to Japan in the interest of peace. When I undertook to negotiate on the part of China to bring about peace the Chinese Government immediately recalled

recalled Mr Detring.) omit

1/2103 I enclose a clipping from the North China News of the twenty second ultimo which sets out a copy of Mr Detring's appointment.

It would seem that, strictly speaking, Mr Detring was the appointee of Li Hung Chang, and was not clothed with the power of a plenipotentiary.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Clipping from North China News.
December 22, 1894.

THE DETRING MISSION.

THE official documents now published proves incontestibly that Mr. Detring, when he visited Japan, was furnished with proper credentials for the purpose of ascertaining on what conditions the Japanese government would be prepared to open negotiations for peace, and no valid objection could have been made to the method the Chinese government adopted to bring this about. The assertion that Count Ito had refused to receive Mr. Detring rests entirely on the official statements published by the Japanese government after Mr. Detring's departure from Japan, but no intimation to this effect was given to Mr. Detring himself, who was on the point of entering into *pourparlers* with Japanese officials, as we have before stated, when he received from Prince Kung a telegram of recall. This, it has already been explained, was sent because the Chinese government had received an answer from America through the U.S. Minister at Peking, accepting the position of intermediary for the U.S. Minister in Japan, with the consent of the Japanese government. All this goes to prove that the Chinese government has done all that is right and proper to open negotiations for peace, and that they have unfortunately not been successful as yet lies wholly with the Japanese government.

The following is a copy of the despatch sent by Li Hung-chang to Count Ito :—

Earl Li Hung-chang, Imperial Commissioner, Grand Secretary, etc., etc., to His Excellency Count Ito, Minister President of the Council of State, etc., etc.

Our Ta Ch'ing dynasty is in the enjoyment of its traditional policy of peace with every nation, save that lately has arisen an unhappy dispute with your country, whereby the usual friendly intercourse has been exchanged for a state of war. Seeing that no inconsiderable calamities have lately fallen upon the people, it is now proposed that both countries temporarily direct their forces by sea and land to cease hostilities.

Memorialising the Throne upon the advisability of this course, the commands of His Imperial Majesty, my august Master have been received as follows :—

"Whereas Mr. Detring has held office in our Empire for many years and proved himself faithful, true and worthy of the highest trust, We command Li Hung-chang to inform him fully and completely of whatever has so far been deliberated upon and decided, and ask him to proceed without delay to Japan and effect a settlement as occasion arises. Mr. Detring will inform Us confidentially and with due speed by telegram through Li Hung-chang of the progress of negotiations."

In accordance with His Majesty's command Mr. Detring, an official holding rank of the first grade, has been directed to proceed forthwith to Tokio to present this despatch and learn the conditions upon which peace may be regained and amicable intercourse be re-established as of old.

Therefore requesting that your Excellency will discuss with Mr. Detring how friendly relations may be restored, this despatch is written commending the proposal to the favourable consideration of your Excellency.

18th September, 1894.

Kuang Hsü 20th year, 10th month, 21st day.

File

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 21 1895

Secretary
WL

Secretary of State.
MAR 20 1895

No. 2104.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 17, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the Secretary of State.

(Amid
Bancroft
encl 8.95)

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1895

Subject:
The pending treaty between China and Japan.

Synopsis:
Its clauses may affect all treaty powers.
Should any thing be done in the way of suggestion as to rights and privileges to be inserted therein?

No. 2104

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 17, 1895.

To the Honorable Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The process of the making of a treaty of peace between Japan and China will be watched with great interest by all the treaty powers represented in the East. Under the "most favored nation" clause in the treaties between China and other powers, questions will arise as to whether the privileges that may be granted to Japan do, or do not, inure to the benefit of all

all the Treaty powers.
It is understood that in the policy of the United States a narrower construction is given to the "most favored nation" clause than is usually claimed for it by other powers.
In Wharton's International Digest § 134 it is stated that: "a covenant to give privileges granted to the "most favored nation" only refers to gratuitous privileges, and does not cover privileges granted on the condition of a reciprocal advantage."
This doctrine has been uniformly held by the Government of the United States, and there is no reasonable doubt as to its correctness.
There is nevertheless a wide range

of

of discussion open as to its application under given circumstances.
In the exact case in evidence it is presumed that Japan will grant no "reciprocal advantage" to China. As Japan is assumed to be the conqueror in the existing war, it is understood that the ensuing treaty will be the result of duress, but it is well settled that duress in no wise affects the validity of treaties.
It must be taken, then, that any advantage given to Japan is not reciprocal, and that the treaty itself will have the same effect as any other treaty would have.
We arrive thus at the conclusion that all the treaty powers are greatly

greatly interested in the conditions that may be imposed on China. It would seem that Japan might have it in her power to sweep away the fee of internal commerce, the lekin tax; - that she might open up all parts of China to foreign residence; that she might even insist on the improvement of the currency, on internal reform, on material progress. She may claim for her people the right to establish national banks, and to build railroads. She may abolish exclusiveness, and open to her commerce every port in China. She proposes to do these things, or some of them, for Korea - why not

not for China?
Japan claims that this war is
one of civilization against barbarism.
If she adhere to this claim, and
going beyond her own selfish
interest, becomes the champion of
civilization, she will have a
wide field of action before her.
I have no means of knowing
what the views of Japan are.
Considering Japan's advancement
and China's astuteness, conjecture
may be wide of the mark.
It would seem, however, that it
would be advisable for the Department
to consider whether supervision should
be had of the treaty making
process, and whether good
results might follow friendly
suggestions

suggestions made in the interest of
the treaty powers.
The position of the Government of
the United States in the whole
pending controversy has been so
impartial, so conciliatory and so
friendly and useful to both
belligerents that it would seem
that it might without arrogance
continue its good offices for the
benefit of humanity.
I simply make the suggestion in
the general, leaving to your better
judgment the decision of the
question whether any thing ought
to be done, and if so in what manner.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack.
[For. Rels. 1895.]
MAR 7 1895

No 2105

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 17, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Acct. 9 Mar 95

Subject:
Japanese proclamation in Manchuria

Synopsis:
Commander enjoins submission
on the people.

One enclosure.

No 2105

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 17, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

105

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a proclamation issued and circulated in Manchuria by the commander of the Japanese forces.

It will be seen that it is [very adroit and] well calculated to produce an impression on the Chinese populace.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosure.

1. Proclamation issued by Japanese General.

Copy

Proclamation issued by the General commanding the Japanese forces (near Newchwang.)

Be it known that I have been appointed by my august Sovreign, the Emperor of Japan to the command of the Japanese forces, cavalry and infantry and artillery, with instructions to proceed to China, who dared to violate the compact between the two countries, thus being guilty of heating off the intercourse existing between them.

The relation at present existing between China and Japan is a matter that does not involve you people.

Therefore those who will obey and not oppose our forces will be carefully protected. Every one should obey the injunctions in the proclamation and live quietly, and should not through fear and apprehension flee to other parts.

The proclamation is issued for the information of you people so that

you

you may know that I, the commander in chief, will treat you with the same humane kindness and benevolence as I would my own people and I would not dare to cause injury to those who are free from crime or offense. Further Chinese soldiers who will lay down their arms and come to our camp and surrender themselves, on no account whatever will they suffer punishment by being executed, thus manifesting the divine purpose of Heaven of exemplifying kindness toward humanity.

You people should not be foolish and go astray. Do not make a mistake and willingly tread into the net of the law.

I, commander in chief, positively and peremptorily carry out the law and will do what I say.

Let it not be said that fair warning was not given. Let all tremble and obey the special proclamation issued in the 27th year

of

Reign of Ming Chih (Emperor Mikado of Japan.)

Posted in Chüm Ta Lin Chin tao.

Mr. Denby No. 6

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

No. 2106

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 18, 1895.

Mr. Denby to the Secretary of State.

Subject:
Acknowledgment of despatches

No 2106

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 18, 1895.

To the Honorable Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches as follows:

No 976	of	November	22
" 977	"	"	24
" 978	"	"	26
" 979	"	"	26
" 980	"	"	27
" 981	"	"	28

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack.
[For. Rels 1895]
MAR 7 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

No 2107

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 18, 1895

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the Secretary of State.

Ack. 9 Mch 95.

Subject:
Decapitation of Wei Ju Kuei.

Synopsis:
Encloses translation of his sentence.

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Mack.
[For. Rels 1895.]
MAR 7 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

No 2107

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 18, 1895

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 7 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the Secretary of State.

Ack. 9 March 95. m

Subject:
Decapitation of Wei Jui Kuei.

Synopsis:
Encloses translation of his sentence.

One enclosure.

No 2107

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 18, 1895

To the Honorable Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The General Nie-ju Kuei was executed yesterday. He commanded the Shung corps which was composed of the rest of the troops of Li Hung Chang. I enclose a translation of the Imperial decree sentencing him to decapitation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby
Jr

1/107

List of Inclosures.

1. A decree published in Transcript-
Gazette of January 16th, 1895.

Copy

A Decree published in the Manuscript Gazette of January 16th, 1895.

The Board of Punishments in obedience to our instructions have memorialized us fixing the penalty that should be meted out to the degraded officer Tsui Jin Kuei as a form of punishment. The Board further submits in detail the crimes of the said degraded officer which are considered of a grave nature and it is requested that an expression of our will be issued in accordance with the suggestions made.

The degraded Brigade General Tsui Jin Kuei in ordinary times commanded the troops under his charge in an indifferent manner, manifesting scant kindness towards them and failed to enforce any discipline whatever.

In the present instance he had command of the Shung corps and on

on the eve of battle he gradually retreated and thus defeated our cause. He furthermore illicitly extorted the soldiers pay and rations and allowed his men to run riot, plundering the people. The crimes he had committed are indeed very great and if the correct form of punishment be not inflicted upon him how can there be any respect shown for our military discipline or any warning made known to others not to follow his bad example. Let Wei Ju Kuei, according to law be decapitated, the sentence of death to be carried out at once. The President of the Board of Punishments Hsueh Jün-sheng is appointed to superintend the execution.

Secretary of State.
JAN 21 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JAN 21 1895
[redacted] TENANT
Confirmed Jany 21.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 21, 1895.

RECEIVED
JAN 21 1895
Department of State.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

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NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY	No. OF WORDS.	CHARGES	FROM
	Pony				Legn Peking

RECEIVED at Washington D.C. Jan 21st 1895

Pres Washington
January Twenty first three Ships
bombarded Teng Chow Pu American
missionaries left on Yorktown

Denby

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 31 1895

No. 2108.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 21st, 1895.

— Mr. Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Washington. —

The Japanese are approaching Tsai Kai Tsai.

— — — — —

No 2108.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 21st, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to war movements.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Translation of Telegram.

Peking, Jan 21st, 1895

Gresham, Washington,

January 21st. Reported Japanese
bombarded Yungchow Fu, fifty miles
north of Chefoo, and landed at
northern Shantung promontory
Shady.

Cypher

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

Secretary of State. 1895

From Peking

January 21, 1895.

Received 1 P.M.

Gresham

Washington

DIPLOMA... JAN 21 1895

January twenty first. Reported Japanese bombarded Feng Chen Fu, fifty miles North of Chefoo and landed at Shantung promontory.

Denby

No 2109.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 31 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 21st, 1895.

— Mr. Charles Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject —

Confirms telegram of to day.

——— ... ———

No 2109.

Legation of the United States

Peking, January 21st 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to confirm overleaf my telegram of this date.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

"Graham, Washington.

January twenty first. Have
ships boilers tubes Engines &c.
American Minnowaska left on
"Yorktown."

Lucky"

January 21st 1895.

No 2110.

DIPLOMATIC
MAR 22 1895

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 22d, 1895.

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RECD.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

—Mr. Denby—
to the
—Secretary of State.—

Acd. 2 Mch 95 No

—Subject—

Chinese plenipotentiaries letters of credence.

—Synopsis—

Drafts prepared by Minister was not used by the Yamen.

———

No 2110.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 22nd 1895

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.

Sir:—

In case any question arises as to the sufficiency of the letters of credence of the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, who are now en route for Japan, I desire to put in advance the facts touching the preparation of those letters (on file).

At the request of Chang Yin-huan I prepared from the most approved forms drafts of letters of credence and sent them to the Tsung li yamen after they had been carefully

put

No 2110.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 22nd 1895

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

In case any question arises as to the sufficiency of the letters of credence of the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, who are now en route for Japan, I desire to put in advance the facts touching the preparation of those letters on file.

At the request of Chung Yin-huan I prepared from the most approved forms drafts of letters of credence and sent them to the Tsung li yamen after they had been carefully

put

just into Chinese. They arrived in abundance of time for us. Nevertheless the Yamen did not use my draft, but got up a very peculiar instrument, which was now submitted to me.

I do not care at this time to comment on this transaction - Japan may hold the letters sufficient. Should she object to them I want you to know that I am not only not responsible for any deficiency that may be ascribed to them, but that I took special pains to avoid the possibility of any trouble occurring in the matter.

Should events make it necessary copies of both sets of letters will be forwarded to

you

you in order to substantiate
the above statements.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant.
Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

Secretary of State. JAN 23 1895

From Peking

January 23, 1895.

Received M.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU JAN 23 1895

Compliments Jan. 23/95

Gresham

Washington

D.C.

January twenty third. The Chinese plenipotentiaries will leave Shanghai twenty eight instant by French mail Steamer for Japan.

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 22 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 21 1895

Ackd by re mail

No. 2111.

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RECD.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23d, 1895.

— Mr. Charles Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Chinese Plenipotentiaries will leave for Japan on 28th instant.

Dip

Telegram after

Peking May 23/95.

Graham

Washington

Continued

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

JAN 24 1895

Plenipotentiaries leave

twenty eighth

Denby

No. 2111.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23rd, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this date relating to the departure of the Chinese Plenipotentiaries for Japan.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Translation of cipher telegram.

Gresham, Washington
January 23d, The Chinese
Plenipotentiaries will leave
Shanghai 28th instant by
French mail steamer for
Japan.

Darby

No 2112

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23d, 1895.

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REC'D.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

— Mr. Charles Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 22 1895

— Subject. —

Ack. 25 Mail Gr'ny 29

Letter of credence of Plenipotentiaries.

— Synopsis —

Copies of correspondence enclosed.

Copy of letter prepared by the Minister and of those sent by China.

No 2112. Four enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23d, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

In my despatch No 2110 of yesterday I made reference to the letters of credence which had been given by the Chinese Government to the Plenipotentiaries Shang and Shao.

In further explanation of this subject I now have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication sent by me to the Yamen the 21st instant, wherein I state that Mr. Owen had word for information

1/12

information as to whether full powers had been granted to the Plenipotentiaries, and I ask for information -

I enclose, also a translation of the letters of credence of the Plenipotentiaries which letters were sent to me on the 21st instant. 2 2112

I enclose, also, a translation of a communication received from the Yamen yesterday, wherein they mention without comment the fact that a copy of the letters of credence had been sent to me. 3 2112

I enclose, also, a copy of the form of letter of credence which I prepared and sent to the Yamen and which they failed to adopt. 4 2112

I

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

Charles Denby

Enclosures 4.

1. Mr. Denby to Yamen 21st January 1895
2. Translation letter of Credence from Yamen -
3 Yamen to Mr. Denby 22d January 1895.
4. Form of letter of Credence sent by Mr. Denby to Yamen.

Enclosure 1 with despatch 2112.

Peking, January 21st, 1895.

Your Highness

and

Your Excellencies.

I have the honour to inform you that I have received from the Minister of the United ~~of the United~~ States at Tokyo a telegram wherein he says that it is reported that the Chinese plenipotentiaries have not full powers and he asks further, whether I am at liberty to inform him for communication to the Minister for Foreign affairs of Japan if they have full powers in Corean affair.

I prepared and sent Your Highness and Your Excellencies drafts of letters of credence to be used as forms, but you informed me that they were

were not used.

I now saw the letters of credence which were furnished to the plenipotentiaries by the Imperial Government, and I was not consulted by you after I sent the drafts mentioned as to the contents of the letters of credence.

I find myself therefore unable to answer the questions above set out, and I have to ask you to inform me what powers were granted to the plenipotentiaries, and whether they were full powers in Eveleigh case.

How the contents of the letters of credence ever became known to any one - if they are known - is a mystery to me who did not know them myself.

As the plenipotentiaries are

permanently

presumably about to start for
Japan, please answer immediately.

I have &c, &c, &c,

(sig) Charles Denby

Enclosure No 2 with despatch 2112.

Translation of letter of credence of Chinese plenipotentiaries sent to Japan.

The Emperor of China to the Emperor of Japan salutations:

Our respective countries have been on friendly terms being situated on the same continent. Hitherto no feeling of animosity has existed between the two countries, but recently on account of matters in Corea hostilities, causing misery to our people and destruction to property and there has kindly been no help for it.

The United States has come forward to arrange the difference and China and Japan has appointed

appointed plenipotentiaries with
full powers to meet together to
settle up satisfactorily (the question
of peace)

He has therefore appointed
Chang Yin-huan holding the
rank of President of a Board
minister of the Tungli Yamen
and junior Vice President of
the Board of Revenue and
Chao Yu-lien wearing the
button of the 1st rank and
acting Governor of Kwangsi
as Our plenipotentiaries with
full powers to proceed to Japan
to deliberate and take action
(with the Japanese plenipotentiaries)

Our desire is that Your
Majesty the Emperor of
Japan will desire Our
plenipotentiaries

plenipotentiaries so that they may thoroughly and conscientiously perform the duties of their offices. This is our hope.

Enclosure No 3 with despatch 2112

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Bourée

Informal

Peking January 22nd 1895

Your Excellency,

Yesterday We had the honor to receive your Excellency's note making Enquiry as to whether Messrs Chang and Shao the Chinese Plenipotentiaries had full powers or not, &c.

We deputed one of the Yamên secretaries to take a copy of their letters of credence to your legation which was personally handed to Mr Lodisputier Secretary with the request that would present same for the perusal of Your Excellency.

The Chinese Plenipotentiaries Messrs Chang and Shao with,

in

in obedience to Imperial instructions,
leave Shanghai on the 28th instant
by French mail steamer for Japan
and I beg that Your Excellency
will be good enough to telegraph
beforehand informing Japan
so that they may be warned.

Cards of Prince Kung and
Ching and Ministers of
the Yamen with compliments.

Enclosure 4 with despatch 2112

Letter of credence.

The Emperor of China to the Emperor of Japan Salutation:

Desiring sincerely to put an end to the War now existing between Japan and China, We have considered that the most efficacious means to reach this end of mutual utility for the two Empires would be to make choice of two distinguished and Experienced persons who perfectly instructed in our Imperial intentions would be able to negociate and conclude with the Government of Japan a treaty of peace.

For these reasons confiding entirely in the capacity, wisdom, Experience, and fidelity of our very dear and beloved Chang Yin Huan, holding the rank or title of President of

a Board, a Minister of the Treasury &
Junior and Junior Vice President
of the Board of Revenue, and Chas
Yorkstone, an officer of the Customs
of the first class, holding the rank
of Vice President of the Board of
War and acting Governor of the
province of Bunan, We have
named appointed and constituted
them Our Ambassadors Plenipotentiary
and by these presents signed by
our own hand We name, appoint
and constitute them Our Ambassadors
Plenipotentiary and give them Join and
give to them full powers and special
authority to negociate, decide on,
conclude and sign, in our name in the
joint name of our Ambassadors Plenipotentiaries
conjointly with the Ambassadors —
Plenipotentiary or Plenipotentiaries
named

named by His Majesty the Emperor
of Japan and duly furnished
with full powers by him and
treaty as may be judged suitable
to insure a lasting peace between
the two countries.

We authorize them to act on this
occasion with the same authority
that we could or would act with
ourselves; promising to accomplish
and Execute faithfully all that
our above named Ambassadors
Plenipotentiary shall have stipulated
and signed in virtue of these
present full powers; reserving
however the right to Exchange
with His Majesty the Emperor
of Japan letters of ratification
which may come to be delivered
in good and due form in whatever

time

time may be agreed upon.
Given in our Imperial Palace
at Peking the

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
aab
MAR 21 1895

No 2113.

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RECD
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 23 1895

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23d, 1895.

— Wm Woodville Rockhill —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Confirming telegram of this date re departure of Chinese plenipotentiaries for Japan.

——— - - - ———

No 2113.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 23d, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham
Secretary of State.
Washington, DC.

Sir:—

After sending you a telegram to the effect that the Chinese Plenipotentiaries would leave on the French steamer the 28th instant, I was informed by the Yamen that owing to the time of the departure of that steamer having been changed, the Plenipotentiaries would leave on the Empress of China the 26th instant.

I therefore sent you another telegram

telegram as under:-

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Charles Denby

Translation of cipher telegram.

"Graham Washington

January 23rd Plenipotentiaries

have finally this

day"

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 22 1895

No 2114

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Receive and approve. The Conclusion is sound.
aah
MAR 21 1895

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MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 24th, 1895.

— Mr. Charles Denby —

to the

— Secretary of State —

Ack? 23d mail Gr

— Subject —

Naturalization of Aliens.

— Synopsis. —

Consular Courts have no jurisdiction to naturalize.

———— - - - ————

No 2114.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 24th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to inform you that a sailor on the "Monocacy" having expressed his desire to become naturalized, Consul Read asked my opinion as to whether he had jurisdiction to admit an alien to citizenship.

Section 2165 Revised Statutes 2d Edition 1878 confers such jurisdiction on only two United States Courts— the Circuit and District Courts.

So

to the boundary bounds are not
circuit or district bounds I
advised Mr Read that he had
no jurisdiction in the matter
stated.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Charles Denby

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ans. sending copy of Proclamation of postponement.
Copy correspondence to the Treasury.
MAR 21 1895

No 2115

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MAR 21 1895
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Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 27th, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 22 1895

Mr. Charles Denby

to the

Secretary of State

Ack'd 23d Mch 95 in
& Treasury
23d Mch 95 in

Subject.

Revised International Rules to Prevent Collisions at Sea.

Synopsis

China declines to put them in force for the present.

No 2115 one enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 27th, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a translation of a communication received from the Tsungli Yamen on the subject of the "Revised International Rules to prevent collisions at Sea"

In this connexion I refer to your despatches No 956 of October 8th last, and No 958 of October 15th last, and to my despatches to you No 2028 of November 16th last, No 2034 of November 26th last, and

No

No 2043 of December 1st last.

The Yamen declines to put the rules in force at this time for the following reasons: The number of fishing boats off the China coast make it impossible that instructions to put them in force at once would be of any avail; the great number of vessels, war and mercantile, also makes prompt action difficult; only three powers have agreed to put the rules in force.

As to the last objection, I assured the Inspector General, while he had the matter under advisement, that the other Powers had been consulted, and that I did not doubt that they would adopt the rules.

The real reason for China's delay will be readily seen to be the

existence

existence of war. She does not see her way clear to make a radical change in signalling while the Enemy's fleets are on her coast. When peace is concluded I will take the matter up again.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Charles Denby

Enclosure:

Henry de Jamin to Mr. Denby Jany 24/95

Enclosure 1 with despatch 215.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby

No 3

Peking January 24th 1895

Upon the 16th of November the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from the Minister of the United States stating that the Governments of Great Britain, France and the United States had agreed upon March 1st, 1895, as the date for putting into effect their respective laws for the prevention of collisions at sea, and that these laws were Enacted in accordance with the recommendations of the International Maritime Conference held in Washington in 1889.

The Ministers of the United States entered

enclosed a copy of the proclamations of the President of the United States on this subject. A copy of article X of the act approved March 3d, 1885, concerning the regulations relative to lights on fishing vessels which is still in force was also enclosed and the Minister of the United States urgently requested China to adopt identical rules and to put them in force March 1st, 1895.

Upon the 1st of December 1894 the Prince and Minister also received from the Minister of the United States a communication enclosing a copy of the circulars issued by the Treasury Department containing the revised rules to prevent collisions at sea which will take effect on March 1st 1895; and he renewed the expression of his urgent hope

hope that Obina would adopt and put them in force.

The Prince and Minister would observe that the United States Government in taking the initiation in this matter has been actuated only by a desire of serving the public interests, — a motive worthy and commendable.

In 1890, the Yamen transmitted the rules adopted by the International Marine Conference for the consideration and action of the Minister Superintendent of Northern and Southern Trade, and the Governor General and Governors of the Maritime Provinces, but no report has ever been received from them.

The most communications of the Ministers of the United States were received during the time when

when peace and tranquility does not exist on the China Coast and fearing that the high authorities of the Maritime Provinces would not have time to give due consideration to the subject presented, the Yamen referred the matter to the Inspector General of Customs. That officer has reported that the new act embraces 31 rules. Article 9, 1890, refers entirely to fishing vessels and is repeated. The act of 1885 is still in force. The articles 30 in all are to be observed as the International Rules to prevent collisions at Sea. There are any number of fishing craft in China and it is to be feared that it would be impossible that instructions issued at once

that

that they should exhibit the lights called for would be of any avail.

Further vessels of China - steam and sail - are divided into two classes, - War and mercantile, and some are of foreign type and some of Chinese type. The tonnage is something Enormous. It would be very difficult to give notice to all that the rules are to come into force on the 1st March 1895, for they could not be carried into effect. Again at the Conference there were representatives of 20 more nations, but it appears that only Great Britain and France, besides the British States have agreed to put the law into effect. It seems therefore right that China should wait awhile.

It

it is not convenient for her
to adopt them at once.

The Prince and Ministers
regard the representations of
the Inspector General of Customs
as being perfectly true and
as in duty bound send
this reply for the information
of the Minister of the United
States and would ask him
to transmit same to the
Honorable Secretary of State.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 21 1895

No 2116

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 31st, 1895.

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RECD.
MAR 21 1895
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Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 22 1895

Subject:
War movements in Manchuria.

Synopsis:
Account thereof clipped from
North China News.

One enclosure.

No 2116

Legation of the United States,
Peking,

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/2116 I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the North China News of the 9th instant giving an account of war movements in Manchuria.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures:
Clipping

Clipping from North China News
January 9th, 1895.

NEWCHWANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE JAPANESE ADVANCE.

For once, possibly, news from this port may be of interest to the world in general, though I suspect that you have already heard, *vid* Japan, or Tientsin, the accounts of the skirmishes and battles fought in this neighbourhood during the last few days. In my last letter I reported the advance of both the First and Second Japanese Army Corps, the one from the Yaloo, the other from Port Arthur. I may dismiss, for the present, the account of the movements of the Second Army Corps, by saying that its progress has not met with the slightest resistance, and it has certainly reached the immediate vicinity of Kaichow, which is 24 miles south-east of this town. It is this army, or a portion of it, we expect here in a few days' time.

GENERAL SUNG'S MOVEMENTS.

I will now briefly record General Sung's movements. He was at Fenghuangchêng when Chiulienchêng was captured. From there he retreated to the mountains, east of Fenghuangchêng, and held the various passes through these mountains. On hearing of the attack on Talienwan bay and the threatened attack on Port Arthur, he left a portion of his army to defend the Motienling and other passes, and hastened south, with, it is supposed, the object of saving Port Arthur. He reached Fuchow, and about 1,000 of his men, under General Liu, who had been the cause of the fall of Chiulienchêng without a blow being struck, marched on to southern Kinchow and were repulsed easily on the 21st of November. On hearing of the advance of the army from Port Arthur, Sung fell back to Haungyuoh, and from there he retreated to Kaichow and made all his plans to defend the roads leading from the south to Haichêng, Newchwang, and this port. Here he remained until last Saturday, the 15th of December, when the news reached him of the victory of the Japanese at Sêtmenchêng and the taking of Haichêng, which meant that he was between the two armies and that his retreat was cut off to the north of Haichêng. He could not retreat to this port as the river was not frozen and he would be in a worse fix, so his only course was to travel by the road to Haichêng and branch off just north-east of this port to Newchwang proper, or Tienchwangtai. This is the course he pursued. He started from Kaichow on Saturday the 15th of December, passed about 16 miles to the east of us, and arrived at Tashichow on the 16th; on the 17th he reached Kangwantai, which is about 26 miles north-east of this port and to-day, the 18th inst., it is reported that a battle is taking place between his army and the Japanese which has advanced from Haichêng to cut off his retreat.

A SEVERE ENGAGEMENT.

I will leave him now fighting this battle to give what account I can of the great battle fought at a town called Sêtmênchêng, which is situated 13 miles to the south-east of Haichêng. The First Japanese Army Corps, after the fall of Fênghuangchêng, advanced to the long range of mountains running from north to south of the province. They had many fights and skirmishes in forcing these passes and finally succeeded in occupying the town of Hsuoyen. The severest fighting took place at the Motienling pass, which was well and successfully defended for a long time, first by General Sung and afterwards by General Ma. When the two armies met at Sêtmênchêng, the Chinese army is said to have numbered from 15,000 to 20,000 men, under Generals Ma, Nieh and Feng. The first two were in charge of Chinese troops, and General Feng of Manchus. Fighting commenced on the evening of the 11th of December and continued all that night, in beautiful moonlight, as it was near the time of full moon. The fighting, which was very severe, was not finished until the afternoon of the 12th. The Chinese were gradually but steadily driven back, and were finally completely routed. Generals Nieh and Feng retreated towards the north, probably to Liaoyang. General Ma retreated to Newchwang proper, where he is now supposed to be.

THE HORRORS OF WAR.

During the fight, possibly owing to shells, the town of Sêtmênchêng was burnt to the ground, and the unfortunate inhabitants numbering from 7,000 to 10,000 were left homeless on a bitterly cold night, there being between 30 and 40 degrees of frost and a strong north wind blowing. What these poor people and the wounded on both sides suffered is terrible to think of. Thousands of women, children, babes and sucklings, sick and wounded men, must have perished, dying of cold and starvation. And now, thousands are probably dying slowly in fearful agony of frost bites, and the results of exposure, without food, without shelter. This is a heartrending picture to try to realise, and why has it been painted in such awful colours? It may possibly be, in the end, good for the world in general that a new nation should rise up, and sweep away corruption and ignorance in another country, but the suffering brought on innocent men, women and children is terrible to contemplate. It would have been a thousand-fold less cruel to conquerors, conquered, and innocent inhabitants of these provinces, if the invasion had taken place in warmer weather, but at present, as far as one can see, wherever the Chinese soldiers go pursued by the Japanese, horrors like the above, and worse, will take place.

THE RESULTS OF THE FIGHT.

The fall of Haichêng was a very simple affair. On the day following the battle of Ssŭmênchêng the Japanese advanced. Their scouts were seen near the city and fired at by the Chinese soldiers, who, however, quickly retreated when the main army was seen approaching. The battle of Ssŭmênchêng is reported by the soldiers reaching this port as the bloodiest yet fought. The loss on the Chinese side was very heavy, and they declare that the Japanese also suffered severely. What has become of the wounded of both sides it is impossible to say. General Sung at present is in a very unpleasant situation, and unless he can get round and ahead of the Japanese, he will be unable to defend Liaoyang or Moukden.

FROM MOUKDEN

news has reached this port that there is rioting taking place. Fighting between two bodies of Manchu troops occurred in front of the Governor-General's residence and the whole town is in a state of disorder. When the news of the fall of Haichêng reached Newchwang proper and the retreating soldiers were known to be coming, the inhabitants commenced to leave in large numbers and are fleeing to the west.

THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENT.

Some of your readers may like to know how these battles and movements of the armies have affected or are likely to affect the safety of the residents of this port. So far as we can see our great danger from defeated soldiers fleeing to this port in large numbers is past. At present, with the exception of the 2,000 or 3,000 soldiers stationed here, there are no native troops between us and the southern Japanese army. If General Sung is defeated by the other army, his soldiers will most probably retreat to Tienchwangtai and from there to western Kinchow and Shanhaikuan, or to Newchwang proper. There is a possibility of trouble if the Taotai runs away before the Japanese arrive, as in that case the soldiers and rabble might commence to burn and loot the native town, but I hardly think they will dare to venture to attack foreign houses in the face of the machine-guns mounted on the masts of the gunboats, as well as others on carriages, which can be easily moved from one place to another, and in the hands of a landing party could soon scatter any mob. The guilds and merchants here have asked for protection from the captains of the gunboats, who, I believe, pointed out to them the great difficulties of interfering with the native authorities in the protection of the native property. Natives persist in saying that the Taotai is only waiting a favourable opportunity to bolt, but he has been warned that if he attempts to do so he will be shot, and the guards at the gates have been given orders to that effect.

THINGS TO REMEMBER.

As it is possible the Japanese will be here in a few days time and our letters may be stopped or delayed, our friends need not be anxious about our safety. The courier passes through Tienchwangtai and Shanhaikuan, so it will not be surprising if one of these days our letters are destroyed by native troops. If the Japanese come, the telegraph line to Port Arthur will probably be stopped and the only mountain cart road we may be able to communicate through Port Arthur. Before closing I would like to point out that Newchwang proper, which is a town [illegible] this port, so when the fall of Newchwang is reported, and the fact of the place being looted and burnt, etc., will correspondents kindly distinguish between Newchwang, and its port where all the foreign resident are.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC

missionaries are at their various posts. It must be a very anxious time for them, and we all wish sincerely that their danger was past.

18th Dec., 1894.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WAR: THE CHINESE METHODS.

On the 4th inst., a reconnoitring party consisting of 48 Japanese advanced on Haichêng, the distance from here being 120 *li* or 40 English miles. Prior to their entering the East gate of that city, the magistrate and his suite left the *yamên* for Tienchwangtai, leaving the town at the mercy of the native soldiers, who burnt and looted as much as they possibly could before the arrival of the Japanese. Flying at the approach of the latter, they then proceeded to Newchwang proper, 30 miles north of this Port, and according to information received the Chinese braves have burnt nearly half of the town. General Sung left Kaichow on the 12th inst., and at present he is at Taugwantszai, just eight miles this side of Haichêng; it is reported that he will attack Major Souyama's forces, consisting of 650 men, at present occupying Haichêng, and about 4,000 strong outside the city walls. General Sung's movements do not convey the impression that he is eager to meet the enemy, as he seems to keep a day's march ahead of them, and it would be far safer for our community if the Japanese could drive General Sung northward.

THE JAPANESE METHODS.

News has reached us that Major Souyama has instructed his men to keep safe guard over the various houses at Haichêng be-

[illegible] the Scotch mission; if this be so, we can rely on the property being well protected from the braves.

THE RED CROSS HOSPITAL,

under very capable supervision, is progressing favourably, and several operations have been performed.—On the 15th instant, the crew of the U. S. S. *Petrel* gave a very enjoyable entertainment, at the Assembly Rooms, and the most remarkable feature of the evening's performance was Mr. Nicholson's capabilities in the *Laughing Son*.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aad
MAR 21 1895

MAR 22 1895

No 2117

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 31st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Honors to foreigners in Chinese service.

Synopsis:
Copy of Imperial decree confirming such honors.

One enclosure

No 2117

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 31st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1
2117

I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the North China News of the 8th instant bring a translation of an Imperial decree awarding honors to the foreigners who were engaged in the battle of the Yalu, September 17th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

Clipping from the North China News,

January 8th, 1895.

(2) Promotions to the officers of the Peiyang fleet for their conduct at the naval battle off the Yaloo river on the 17th of September, 1894, against the Japanese fleet under Admiral Ito. With reference to the foreign officers on board the Peiyang fleet contained in a postscript memorial of Li Hung-chang, the decree goes on to say :—As for Hanneken, he has already been granted by a previous special decree the Grand Cross of the Double Dragon, Second Division, but as a special mark of Imperial favour, he is furthermore granted the brevet button of a *Tsitu*, or Provincial Commander-in-Chief. With reference to the foreign officers who were killed in our service, namely Nicholls and Purvis, let their families be granted three years' full pay as a token of our appreciation of their services. The four foreign officers who were wounded in the battle, namely the German A. Hekman, chief gunnery officer of the *Chenyuen*, he is to be given the rank of a post captain ; while the Englishman Tyler, second commander on board the *Tingyuen*, flagship ; the German J. Albercht, chief engineer on board the same ship ; and the American Phil. N. McGiffin, second commander on board the *Chenyuen*, are to be given the rank of Commanders in the Imperial navy. Furthermore, as an extra distinction the said four officers are each to be decorated with the Star of the Double Dragon, Third Division, and the single-eyed peacock's feather.

3D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject and approve, awaiting result.
MAR 21 1895

No 2118

Legation of the United States,
Peking, January 31st, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD
MAR 21 1895
DEPT OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 22 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack.d
23 March 95

Subject:
Mercantile cipher telegrams.

Synopsis:
Yamen is asked to rescind the order prohibiting their being sent.

One enclosure.

No 2118.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 31st, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that recently an order was made prohibiting the merchants at Tientsin from sending telegrams relating to their business.
I have addressed to the Yamên a communication on this subject, of which a copy is enclosed, wherein I ask,

for

for reasons stated, that this order be rescinded.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.
Mr Denby to the Tsungli Yamên
January 30, 1895.

January 30. 1895

Confd

Your Highnesses
and
Your Excellencies.

I have the honor to inform you that I have learnt from the United States Consul at Tientsin that Merchants doing buisness at that port have been prohibited to send ciphre telegrams relating to their buisness.
Such a procedure will work great injury not only to foreign merchants but also to the interests of China.
I call your attention to the fact that within the past year the trade centering at Tientsin has largely increased. This is particularly true of wool, of which the greater part goes to the United States.
Owing to the great competition existing the wool market is very sensitive. The slightest obstruction to the free transaction of buisness works injuriously

treaure

because it impairs the facilities of buying and selling. In these days all business is done by telegraph. Markets are keenly watched and orders to buy or to sell must be transmitted instantly when required.

I can see no possible good that can result to China by prohibiting merchants from telegraphing to their correspondents. It would be very easy to devise a scheme by which it would be impossible that any information detrimental to China could be transmitted. I believe that the system of consular supervision of telegrams worked well.

The mercantile community will acquiesce in any reasonable restrictions, but prohibition of telegraphing means the end of trade.

I earnestly request Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies to

to rescind the recent order on this subject.

R

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State. FEB 7 1895

F. 100

From Peking

Feby. 2, 1895.

Confirmed Feb. 5/95

FEB 4 1895

GRESHAM,

Washington.

February second. Weihaiwei three forts have been taken. Denby.

Peking

May. 2, 1895.

GRESHAM,

Washington.

February second. Wolcalvi three forts have been taken. Denby.

Referred to File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 21 1895

No 2119

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 2, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 21 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Confirms telegram relative to the taking of Shell forts at Weihaiwei

No 2119

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 2, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to the taking of three forts at Weihaiwei.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 2d, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

Urihaiwi three forts have been taken.

Denby.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

Secretary of State. FEB 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU FEB 5 1895

From Peking

February 11, 1895.

Gresham

Washington.

Confirm by mail Feb. 5

Received 9:10 A.M.

Confirmed Feb 6 1895

February fourth. Japan refused to receive plenipotentiaries because letters of credence defective. I prepared for Yamen proper letters of credence; they substituted therefor letters of credence prepared by themselves. Plenipotentiaries leave Hiroshima to-day

Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
So inform Secy of Agriculture
and
MAR 30 1895

No 2120

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 4th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 30 1895

To Agriculture
for Chief

Subject:
Chinese persimmons.

Synopsis
Minister will furnish seeds
and scions.

No 2120

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 3d, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 984 of December 15th, 1894, relating to the furnishing of seeds and scions of the Chinese persimmon.

I will take great pleasure in complying with the request of the Honorable Secretary of Agriculture to furnish the seeds and scions mentioned.

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAR 30 1895

No 2121

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 4, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 1 1895

Subject:

Confirms telegram relative to Japan's refusal to receive plenipotentiaries.

N° 2121

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 4, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of to-day relating to the refusal of Japan to receive the Chinese plenipotentiaries. I feared this result as will abundantly appear by my despatch N° 2110 of the 22d ultimo and my despatch N° 2112 of the 29th ultimo.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 4, 1895.

Gresham

Washington.

Japan refused to receive plenipotentiaries because letters of credence defective. I prepared for Yamin proper letters. They substituted therefor letters prepared by themselves. Envoys leave Hiroshima to-day.

Denby.

Newton
Jan. Feb. 1895

Secretary of State.
FEB 9 1895

TELEGRAM RECEIVED (in Cipher)

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Index
Confirm + file.
FEB 9 1895

From Peking

February 5, 1895.

Received 12:55 P M.

INFORMATION BUREAU
FEB 11 1895

Confirms Feb 12 1895

Gresham,

Washington.

February fifth. Sent today following American Minister Tokyo. Chinese Government request me telegraph you to inform the Japanese Government that China proposes to change letter of credence making it more full and explicit, and proposes that the two Chinese Ambassadors remain six Nagasaki for the present.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject, wiet No. 2123.
MAR 30 1895

No. 2122

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 5, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. of STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 1 1895
Ack'd to Japan 95 m

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Broken off Treaty & Chinese credentials insufficient.

No 2122

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 5, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I append hereto a copy of a telegram received yesterday from the Chinese Envoys Chang and Shao relating to the breaking off of peace negotiations.

Mr Denn wires me that they were broken off because the credentials were insufficient.

I went to see the Yamên yesterday but owing to its being the season

7

of the Chinese New Year I did not see any of the Ministers. I gave to one of the Secretaries a Chinese version of the above mentioned telegram to be delivered to the Yamên.

The action taken will be duly reported to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

[Copy of telegram.]

Hiroshima, February 2, 1895.

American Minister Denby,

Peking.

Arrived Hiroshima thirty first January Japan named comm Ito and viscount Mutsu plenipotentiaries. on first instant met and exchanged respective commissions on second met again when Japanese plenipotentiaries pointed out that commissions with full powers should confer authority to conclude treaty, and to sign, and objected to our commissions, stating we had to wire from time to time to Yamen, which they considered insufficient

and

and refused to negotiate with us. therefore they will convoy us from this place. Japan is not unwilling to negotiate if China should still appoint high officials with proper commissions of full power; she will treat. we expressed wish to obtain imperial telegraphic instructions before leaving but Japan replied Hiroshima being military station inexpedient for us to delay departure as Japan feared telegraphic answer from Peking would take time insisted upon our leaving and would convoy us to Nagasaki only course open to us is to wire you about it. please inform Yamen.

we

we start on fourth. contents of documents with Japan will be wired after arrival at Shanghai.

Chang Yen Hoon

Shao Yu Lien

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack with No. 2122.
aaa
MAR 30 1895

No 2123

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 5, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Acd: 2° apr. 95 m

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 1 1895

Subject:
Confirms telegram relating to peace negotiations.

No. 2123.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 5, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I append hereto a translation of my cipher telegram to you of to-day relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 5. 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

I sent to-day following:

American Minister, Tokyo.

The Chinese Government request me to telegraph you to inform the Japanese Government that China proposes to change Letter of credence making it more full and explicit and proposes that the two Chinese ambassadors remain at Nagasaki for the present.

Derby.

No. 2124

File.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 6, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations

Synopsis:
Reports an interview with the
Yamên.

No 2124

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 6, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the following members of the Tsungli Yamên called on me yesterday: Sun yu-wen, Hsu Yung-i, Wang Ting-hsuan, and Ching-hsin
Their visit resulted in my sending a telegram to Messrs Chang and Shao - the Chinese Envoys to Japan - commanding them

them to wait further orders at Nagasaki, and a telegram to Mr Dun, a copy of which was wired to you. See my despatch No 2123 of yesterday. The members of the Yamên were very cool and did not seem at all disturbed by the fact that Japan had refused to enter upon negotiations.

I closed them with misconduct in substituting their own letters of credence for those which I had carefully prepared and sent to them.

In this connection I refer to my despatches No 2110; 2112; of the 22d, 23d ultimo respectively and No 2121 of the 4th instant.

With

With regard to this transaction I desire to mention an additional fact which I had not hitherto mentioned. At an interview that I had with the Yamên after I had sent to it the form for letters of credence I enquired whether it suited the members and had been adopted. Mr Chang promptly answered that it had been slightly altered to suit Chinese phraseology, but had been substantially adopted. A comparison between the papers set out in my despatch No 2112 of the 23rd ultimo will show that this statement was false in toto I will show however that the Yamên had my paper before them

them when their own was prepared,
because the word "Salutation"
written in theirs was evidently
taken from mine.
I desire to state, also, that in
the English text of the letter
of credence I used the words
"Envoy Extraordinary etc", and
in the Chinese text which was
sent to the Yamên I used the
word "Ambassador". This change
appears on the English copy
in the hand writing of Mr
Cheshire and was made at the
instance of Mr Chang before the
Chinese text was sent to the
Yamên. These proofs are
conclusive that the form prepared
by me reached the Yamên
before

before its own substitute was prepared.

In response to my complaint of duplicity Hsü Yung-i, who prepared the letter of credence, did not say a word.

Sun Yu-wen said he had never seen my copy and that Chang had carried it away with him, and asked for another copy, which was furnished him.

Ching-lien said that the Chinese mode of writing was different from the English and that accounted for the discrepancies between the two documents.

Wang said nothing. I replied that Ching-lien's reason was not a good one, that

that their paper did not contain the word "peace" nor the word "conclude" nor the word "sign", and was altogether insufficient. I said there was one of two things to do, either the Envoys were to be given letters of credence with full powers, or the whole matter was to be dropped. They were still averse to giving full powers. I prepared a despatch to Mr Chang to be sent by telegraph stating that letters of credence would be sent to him - and they struck out the words "of credence" and left only the word "letters". They then prepared the telegram of which

a

a copy was sent you yesterday.

They strenuously objected to the words: "to authorize them to act on this occasion with the same authority that we could or would act with ourselves etc."
They said that this clause was contrary to Chinese practice. I said it was a mere form used in all treaties and other legal documents, but it could be slightly modified if desired.
They enquired again and again as to the power of the Emperor to refuse to ratify.
I told them that all treaties had to be ratified and cited the example in 1888 of China herself

herself. refusing to ratify the American treaty of that date, whereby it fell to the ground.

But I said that honor and good faith demanded that treaties properly and honorably entered into should be ratified, and only fraud in their preparation or some very unusual circumstance could prevent their ratification.

They did not seem to attach any importance to this statement.

I demanded that any new letters of credence prepared by the Yamen should be submitted to me before transmission, and they agreed to this demand. I need not say that

that after all my labors I seriously regret that an unforseen incident, which I took every precaution to avoid, should have delayed negotiations for peace. My only mistake was in relying on the declaration of the Envoy Chang made at the table around which his Colleagues and I sat that the letters furnished were substantially the same as mine. It is possible to guard against stupidity, but when stupidity is allied to bad faith it is nearly impossible to provide safe guards.

It is impossible to say with

with certainty to-day that China wants peace. She still has an idea that the foreign powers will intervene to save her from ruin - an idea to which some force has been given by the frantic and foolish conduct of people who ought to have known her better. If China knew to-day that the world would stand aside and let her fight her own battle she would instantly make peace.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

Secretary of State. Feb 16 1895

From Peking

February 7, 1895.

Received 9 45 M.

Deciphered 10 10

Gresham

Washington

D.C

February Seventh. It seems now that Chang had letter to the Emperor, which was not the same as the one that I prepared, but which possibly might have been held good. He had also a letter of instructions addressed to Comst Ito ~~which~~ as letters of credence were worthless. He delivered the latter and kept the former back. I am telegraphing that I will send new letter and that the Envoys must stay at Nagasaki.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
MAR 30 1895

No 2125.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 7th, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 30 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Confirms telegram.

No 2125

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 7th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I append on the nextleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to Peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

Peking, February 7, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

It seems now that Chang had one letter to the Empress which was not the same as the one that I prepared, but possibly might have been held good. He had also a letter of instructions addressed to Count Ito, which as letters of credence were worthless. He delivered the latter and kept the former back. I am telegraphing that I will send new letters of credence and that the Envoys must stay at Nagasaki.

Denby.

File

No 2126

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 7, 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Sends copies of telegrams
sent to Mr Dun.

No 2126

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 7, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I append on the overleaf copies of two telegrams sent by me to-day to the American Minister at Tokyo relating to Peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

[Copies of telegrams sent]

First telegram

February 7, 1895.

American Minister,

Tokyo.

Procure Japan to let the Envoys stay at Nagasaki until new letters of credence arranged. There is some mystery about the matter that I cannot understand. I prepared letters after approved forms, and understand that they were given to Chang. When you suggested doubts as to the sufficiency of letters I procured from Yamên copies of letters given. They had not given mine, unfortunately, but their own copy might have

been

been held good with a very slight change. So I wired you that I would not decide the question. It seems now that other and totally different letters were given to Chang-in fact two sets- one to the Empero of Japan, and one to Count Ito. The latter I never saw- they are said to be worthless- but China will send satisfactory letters. Chang has evidently delivered the wrong letters. I am about to send you a long despatch from the Yamên.

Denby.

Second telegram

Peking, February 7, 1895.

American Minister,

Tokyo

Tokyo.

The Chinese Government requests me to send the following telegram to Japan:- Yesterday we had the honor to receive a telegram from Your Excellency which you had received from Messrs Chang and Shao, Chinese plenipotentiaries, wherein Japan objected to the letter of credence on account of these bring no authority expressed therein with reference to concluding and signing a treaty of peace. Hence it was a difficult matter for Japan to negotiate with them. Messrs Chang and Shao were therefore conveyed

conveyed to Nagasaki, etc.
With reference to the letter of
credence given to the
plenipotentiaries the words
chüan chüan, full powers,
were considered quite sufficient
for the purpose of concluding
a treaty as well as signing
it; that these words included
all and that there was no
necessity of stating everything
in detail. As Japan has doubts
as to the validity of the said
letter of credence China is
willing to change it. It being
stipulated that after the
deliberations are over and
the plenipotentiaries of the
two powers have signed the
treaty

treaty negotiated the same must wait the Imperial consent before ratifications can take place, and the treaty become effective. All these particulars will be put in the letter of credence. The changed letter of credence will be sent to Messrs Chang and Shao to be presented to the Japanese authorities. As it will take some time to send the letter to Japan, would Your Excellency please telegraph Japan in the sense above indicated, giving full particulars. As Messrs Chang and Shao are in Nagasaki would Your Excellency ask Japan to open negotiations with them

them. There is no need for
them to return to Shanghai.

Denby.

105

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State
FEB 13 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
FEB 14 1895

From Peking,

February 8, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 14 1895

Confirming daily

Acknowledged Feb 15. 95

GRESHAM.

Washington.

February 8. It is believed here Wei-hai-wei fallen. Chinese fleet has been captured. Japanese ships pursuing torpedo boats with Ting aboard. One Englishman wounded; two Americans killed.--Supposed to have been the men arrested at Nagasaki.

Denby.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from Captain Sir Edward Belcher, C.B., dated the 8th instant, reporting the arrival of Her Majesty's Ship under his command at Hong Kong.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
G. A. SARTORIUS.

To Hawkins.

Admiralty, 8th May 1850.

No 2127

File.

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
MAR 29 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Peking. February 8, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Encloses letters given to
Chinese Envoys.

One enclosure.

No 2127.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 8, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatches Nos 2110 and 2112 of the 22d and 23d ultimo respectively and Nos 2121 and 2124 of the 4th and 6th instant respectively, all on the subject of the letters of credence furnished to the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, I now

1/127 enclose a copy of the so called

called credentials which were
actually exhibited by the
Chinese Envoys.
This copy was furnished
me by H. B. M's Minister to
whom it was wired from
Tokyo.
Comment on the deception of
the Yamên in stating to me
that they had sent my form
of letters of credence, and
then sending such a document
as the enclosure is unnecessary.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosure.

By decree we hereby appoint
-as our
Plenipotentiaries to meet and
to negotiate the matter with
the Plenipotentiaries of Japan.
You will telegraph to the
Yamin for the purpose of
obtaining our commands by
which you will abide.
The members of your mission
are placed under your orders.
You will carry out in a
faithful and diligent manner
your mission and you will
fulfill the trust we have
reposed in you.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aad
MAR 30 1895

No 2128

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 9, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 2 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

War news.

Synopsis:

Confirms telegram.

No 2129

File

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 9, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
MAR 29 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
The observance of neutrality.

Synopsis:
Confirms telegram. Explains that furnishing of letter of credence was unofficial act of kindness.

No 2128

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 9. 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a copy of my cipher telegram of yesterday relating to war news.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 8. 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

It is believed here Weihaiwei fallen. Chinese fleet has been captured. Japanese ships pursuing torpedo boats with Ting on board. One Englishman wounded. Two Americans killed supposed to have been the men arrested at Nagasaki.

Denby.

No 2129

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 9, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 6th instant relating to the observance of neutrality. I will severely heed the admonition. As the implication from the telegram might be that I have in some way compromised our neutrality,

I

I beg to say that such implication would be erroneous. I have sent to you every line that I have wired as intermediary to Japan. This perusal when received will make it apparent that every word emanated from the Tsungli Yamên. The furnishing of a skeleton form of a letter of credence was simply an unofficial act of kindness. Mr Chang represented to me that the Yamên did not know how to draw one, and begged me to prepare a form. I did so just as I would have furnished him a

form

form of a deed, or power of attorney, or any other paper. I had before me the fate of the Detring mission, and I wished to avoid a similar fiasco, because I knew that, rightly or wrongly, the world would hold me responsible for any mistake in the credentials. The world does now most strongly hold me responsible in this regard.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher]

Washington, February 6, 1895.

Denby Minister,

Peking.

While acting as intermediary do nothing that would ~~in any~~ appear to compromise in any degree this Government's position of impartial neutrality between China and Japan.

Gresham.

Refer to File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No 2130

Legation of the United States,
Peking. February 10, 1895

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations

Synopsis:
Japan refuses to continue
negotiations.

No 2130.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 10, 1895

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this date relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 10, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

I send following received yesterday from Denn: American Minister, Peking. February eighth. Your telegrams of fifth and seventh received. Japanese Government reply as follows: Although the Japanese Government would consent at any time again to open peace negotiations if the Chinese Government should sincerely desire peace and send a plenipotentiary or plenipotentiaries of high rank and prestige and clothed with proper full powers, yet they cannot allow the present Envoys with whom the negotiations met failed to remain in Japan waiting for instructions from their Government.

Denn.

Secretary of State. FEB 11 1895

AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FEB 11 1895

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

Sent

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
FEB 11 1895

From Peking

February 10, 1895.

Gresham

Washington

Received M.

Confirmed by mail Feb. 11.

Confirmed Feb. 13/95

February 10. I send following received yesterday from Minn: American Minister Peking. February 8. Your telegrams of fifth and seventh received. Japanese Government reply as follows: although the Japanese Government would consent at any time again to open peace negotiations if the Chinese Government should sincerely desire peace and send a plenipotentiary [or] plenipotentiaries of high rank and prestige and clothed with full powers, yet, they cannot allow the present Envoys, with whom the negotiations once failed, to remain in Japan waiting for instructions from their government.

Denby

China

No 2131

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 12, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
New Envoys will be
appointed.

No. 2131

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 12, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this date relating to Peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

(over)

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher.]

February 12, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

Chinese Envoys leave Nagasaki to-day. I believe new Envoys will be named. There are rumors of insurrections and mutinies of soldiers in Anhui and Chihli. All the Chinese fleet was destroyed by torpedoes, except one torpedo boat. It is said that every body aboard the fleet was lost.

Denby.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY. FEB 14 1895

Secretary of State FEB 13 1895

From Pekin

February 12, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU FEB 14 1895

Gresham

Received M.

Washington.

confirmed

Confirmed Feb. 15/95

February twelfth. Chinese Envoys leave Nagasaki for Shanghai to-day. I believe new Envoys will be named. There are rumors of insurrections and mutinies of soldiers in An-hui and Chihli. All the Chinese fleet was destroyed by torpedoes except one torpedo-boat. It is said that everybody aboard the fleet was lost.

Denby

SEC APR 8 1895

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 11 1895

No 2132

Legation of the United States,

INDEX BUREAU
RECD
APR 8 1895
DEPT OF STATE

Peking, February 14, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

rec'd apr. 12. 95

Subject:
Prospects of peace.

Synopsis:
Some observations on the position of Japan and China.

No 2132.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 14, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

From the perusal of the telegram sent to me by Japan, of which a copy was appended to my despatch No 2130 of the 10th instant, it will no doubt appear to you that Japan has not hitherto been desirous to conclude peace. The intimation in that telegram that China does not

not "sincerely desire peace" and
that "plenipotentiaries of high
rank and prestige" must be
sent, raises a very strong
presumption that Japan never
intended to treat with the
Envoys, who were sent to
make peace. A few observations
on the condition of affairs
in Japan will conduce to
make this apparent, and
perhaps, even to raise a
doubt as to whether Japan
will consent to make peace
until China has been
thoroughly conquered, and
her territory occupied.
Although the feudal
system and class distinctions
have

have been done away in Japan, nevertheless, the old clan and class jealousies exist as strongly as ever. The granting of a Diet to the people has increased class jealousy. Formerly no class but the Samurai had anything to do with public affairs. In the elections since 1889, farmers, merchants and manufacturers were returned to Parliament. Diet after diet has been dissolved because of antagonism to the Government. In May last Japan was in a fever of heat approaching a revolutionary point

point. A safety valve was
found in war.
The war party saw a chance
to oust the Ito cabinet
which represented peace.
The leaders of the war party
Counts Yamagata, Matsukata,
Oyama, Admiral Ito and
others went to the field,
-and are now worshipped
by hero-loving Japan. It
is likely that younger and
better trained soldiers did
the work, but the leaders
get the credit of the victory.
It is to be apprehended
that peace negotiations are
impeded by the fear of the
present cabinet that when
they

they are inaugurated the
war party will seize the
Government.
It is said that officials near
the person of the Emperor
are being day by day
displaced by military and
naval officers.
The naval party will
demand from China the
permanent possession of
forts and strongholds. The
military party will seek
the control of strategic
positions for future operations
against China, and perhaps
Russia.
The civil party may be
divided into a Mining
and

point. A safety valve was
faund in war.
The war party saw a chance
to oust the Ito cabinet
which represented peace.
The leaders of the war party
Counts Yamagata, Matsukata,
Oyama, Admiral Ito and
others went to the field,
-and are now worshipped
by hero-loving Japan. It
is likely that younger and
better trained soldiers did
the work, but the leaders
get the credit of the victory.
It is to be apprehended
that peace negotiations are
impeded by the fear of the
present cabinet that when
they

they are inaugurated the
war party will seize the
Government.
It is said that officials near
the person of the Emperor
are being day by day
displaced by military and
naval officers.
The naval party will
demand from China the
permanent possession of
forts and strongholds. The
military party will seek
the control of strategic
positions for future operations
against China, and perhaps
Russia.
The civil party may be
divided into a Mining
and

and Railway Engineering faction, and a mercantile faction.

These two propose to control rail roading and mining, and interior commerce in China. To secure these various ends the war must go on until the mass of the people in China has felt its evils, and is clamorous for peace at any price.

My judgment is that in China the war party greatly exceeds in numbers and influence the peace party. The Emperor's advisers have never dared to tell him the extent

extent of the danger which confronts China.

Such unwelcome news imparted by them might cause them to lose their heads. The Emperor casually knows that there have been some reverses to his arms, but he believes that these were due to treachery of some of his generals who have been decapitated. Imperial decrees continue to describe the Japanese as "dwarfs" "slaves" and "dogs" and "bandits". Only a few days ago the brightest man, intellectually, in the Empire, Chang Chi-tung, issued at Nankin a proclamation offering

offering rewards for Japanese heads.

I have reason to beleive that some effort is being made to induce Li Hung-chang to accept the position of Envoy to make peace. His honor would, nessarily, have to be restored to him, but even this bait will, probably, not induce him to accept the dangerous honor. He reasons that he has been accused of treason, of being ~~being~~ too friendly to Japan, of having failed to do his duty in making military preparations etc. If he goes to Japan and makes

makes a treaty damaging to China - as it necessarily will be - he greatly fears that his life will be insecure at the hands of the people when he returns. If the post of Envoy be offered to him he will refuse it if he can do so with safety.

The Yamên is all at sea as to whom to appoint. Prince Kung is sick and feeble. Prince Ching has never, to my knowledge, demonstrated any ability, although he is a very nice, courteous gentleman. As before you will read these lines the matter will be settled, it is of course

no use to discuss it fudher. The position of China geographically renders her condition deplorable. The Japanese will, probably, soon take Tientsin, and secure the possession of the only arsenal in the North. They will, since the Northern fleet is destroyed, control the Yangtze, and thus cut China in two. Ammunition is already running short. There is danger that no more can be procured. It would seem that prudence would dictate peace at all hazards - but in all human probability peace will be followed by revolution in the southern provinces.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obdient servant,

Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Apher

From Peking

February 16, 1895.

Received M.

Gresham

Washington.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. FEB 16 1895

Confirmed Feb 2 0 1895

Li Hung Chang appointed sole plenipotentiary to treat for peace. His honors have been restored to him. He will come to Peking in a few days. It is not certain that he will accept, but the presumption is that he will be forced to do so.

Denby

No. 2133

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 11 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 16, 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Jae 16. apr. 12. 95

Subject:
Autographic letter of Emperor.

Synopsis:
Minister disclaims responsibility therefor.

One enclosure.

No. 2133

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 16, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

1/2133 I have the honor to enclose a translation of an autographic communication addressed to the President by the Emperor of China, conveying the thanks of the Emperor to the President. I desire not to be held responsible in any wise for any of its contents. It was prepared without

without my knowledge, or consent, and without consultation in any form with me, and it was sent by telegraph before any suggestion could be made regarding it. It is based on the erroneous idea that the United States in some sense by virtue of the treaty of 1858 has been mediating between China and Japan. I have explained to the Tsungli Yamên fifty times that I am not a mediator, but simply an intermediary. They understand my position perfectly well, but they conveyed to the Emperor at the beginning the

the idea of my being a
mediator and they are afraid
to inform him that they
were mistaken.
The real purport of this
letter is to obtain from the
President an oder that I
shall be instructed after
my duties as intermediary
are over - that is to say
when the two nations have
been brought together, and
when peace negotiations
have actually been commenced
by the plenipotentiaries of
Japan and China - to advise
China as to the clauses of
the proposed treaty. I have
never desired to occupy
such

such a position, have never intimated that I wished to do so, but have always steadily refused to act in any capacity but that of intermediary.

I have honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby.

List of Inclosures.

1. Translation of autograph letter from the Emperor of China to the President of the United States.

Translation of autographic
letter from the Emperor of
China to the President of
the United States.

The Emperor of China
to the President of the United
States Greeting.

The sincerest relations of
friendship have long existed
between our respective Countries.
The Government of the United
States has been most
obliging toward China.
Since the relations of
friendship have ceased to
exist - from last year -
between China and Japan,
the President of the United
States issued instructions
to

to Mr. Denby Envoy
Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of the United
States to China, in accordance
with the stipulations of the
treaty of past years - the
purport of which is, "if any
other nation should act
unjustly and oppressively
the United States will exert
their good offices to bring
about an amiable arrangement,"
to put forth every effort and
his best to devise and
arrange matters.
Mr. Denby has performed
his duty in this respect
in a scrupulous manner
with a nice regard to
minute

minute particulars.
This we esteem as highly
commendable and praiseworthy.
Mr. Denby having in the
present instance received
the instructions of the
President of the United
States to give very special
care to try to arrange matters
between China and Japan
we greatly rely upon his
assistance and help.
This autograph letter which
we have prepared is to be
sent to Mr. Minister Yang jui
who holds the position of
Deputy Commissioner of
the office of Transmission
with instructions to present
the

the same in person to the President of the United States using this means of conveying Our deep and sincere gratitude for the President's kindness. We hope the President will still issue further instructions to Mr. Denby that as opportunity offers, he is to continue to perform the duty of rendering due assistance: (in the questions pending) also that the President will issue instructions to the United States Minister to Japan in like manner to render his assistance and help. Thus we hope that benefit and good may result in the affairs of the two Countries which we sincerly long for.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No. 2134

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 16, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Li Hung chang appointed plenipotentiary.

No. 2134

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 16, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this date relating to the appointment of Li Hung Chang as Plenipotentiary to treat for peace.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 16, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

Li Hung chang appointed sole plenipotentiary to treat for peace. His honors have been restored to him. He will come to Peking in a few days. It is not certain that he will accept but the presumption is that he will be forced to do so.

Denby.

M.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

PACIFIC BUREAU
FEB 18 1895

From Peking

February 17, 1895.

Received M.

Gresham

Washington.

Confirmed Feb. 20/95

February seventeenth. Yamen begs that the President will telegraph Japan asking her to grant an armistice. I told them that our position of neutrality forbid such action and that their request could not be granted; but they begged me so strenuously to send telegram that I agreed to do so.

Denby

Filed with No. 2135

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No. 2135

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 17, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. of STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Japan begs President to telegraph Japan to grant an armistice.

No 2135

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 17, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
append on the overleaf a
translation of my cipher
telegram to you of this date
relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 17, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

Yamên begs that the President will telegraph Japan asking her to grant an armistice. I told them that our position of strict neutrality forbade such action and that their request could not be granted, but they begged me so strenuously to send a telegram that I agreed to do so.

Derby.

Secretary of State.
FEB 23 1895

Peking

Feby 18, 1795.

G R E S H A M,

Washington.

February 18. I have just received from Japan the following telegram. American Minister, Peking, Feby 17. You are requested by the Japanese Government to communicate the following to the Chinese Government. The Japanese government declare that another Chinese peace mission will be wholly useless unless besides the payment of a war indemnity and the admission of the complete independence of Korea the Chinese Plenipotentiaries come prepared to negotiate (under) full powers upon the basis of the cession of territory as a consequence of war and an agreement to concede definitive treaties for the regulation of future intercourse. There are other questions of less importance which will also require adjustment. The Japanese government reserve to themselves the right at any time hereafter to formulate any additional demands which may in their judgment be either necessary or desirable. Signed Dun.

Denby.

TELEGRAM SENT.

Department of State,

Washington, _____, 189

Sent _____, 189____ *M.*

_____, *Operator.*

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

Secretary of State. FEB 19 1895

From Peking

February 18, 1895.

Gresham

Washington.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. Received 2:55 P. M. FEB 20 1895

Confirm Feb 2/1895

February eighteenth. The two alleged Americans, really Englishman(mm) got away from Wei Hai Wei. Tsing suicided. Legation guards all here but mine; two United States officers came here to examine quarters engaged provisionally. China consents to guards coming. Likely England, France, Russia will ask that armistice be granted, or at least that Chihli be not invaded, while Li is gone. Japan's telegram sent to day may change the situation. Li will be here twenty fourth; if Li goes under Japanese conditions, peace may ensue; if he does not go, Japanese will take Taku forts, Tien Tsin and march on Peking. Am I authorized to bring up troops? Japanese will treat at Port Arthur if Li goes as Plenipotentiary. My health perfect, but hard-worked.

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No. 2136

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 18, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Japan's conditions of peace.

No 2136

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 18, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this day relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 18, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

I have received from Japan the following telegram: American Minister, Peking, February 17th: You are requested by the Japanese Government to communicate to the Chinese Government the following: The Japanese Government declare that the despatch to Japan of another Chinese Peace Mission will be wholly useless unless besides the payment of a war indemnity and the admission of the complete independence

C

independence of Korea the Chinese plenipotentiaries come prepared to negotiate under full powers upon the basis of the cession of territory as a consequence of war and an agreement to conclude definite treaties for the regulation of future intercourse. There are other questions of less importance which will also require adjustment. The Japanese Government reserve to themselves any additional demands which may in their judgment be either necessary or desirable. Signed Dun.

Derby.

Delby to file

No. 2137.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 18, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Confirms telegram.

No. 2137.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 18, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
append on the overleaf a
translation of my cipher
telegram of this date
containing diverse items
of news and relating to
peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 18, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

The two alleged Americans, really Englishmen, got away from Weihaiwei. Ting suicided. Legation guards all here but nine. Two United States officers came here to examine situation. Quarters engaged provisionally. China consents to guards coming. Likely England, France, Russia will ask that armistice be granted - or at least that Chihli be not invaded while Li is gone. Japan's telegram sent you to-day

to-day may change the situation. Li will be here twenty-fourth. If Li goes under Japanese conditions peace may ensue. If he does not go Japanese will take Taku forts, Tientsin, and march on Peking. Am I authorized to bring up troops? Japanese will treat at Port Arthur if Li goes as plenipotentiary. My health perfect, but hard worked.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack by subject aak
APR 9 1895

Secretary of State
APR 9 1895

No. 2138.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 14 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 9 1895

Ack'd 10" apr. 7"

Subject:

New year's audience

Synopsis:

Ceremonial and remarks made enclosed.

Three enclosures.

No. 2138

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 14, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that as Dean of the Diplomatic body, on the request of my Colleagues I some days ago represented to the Yamên that the members of the Diplomatic body would take pleasure in making a new year's visit to His Majesty the Emperor.

The

The audience took place to-day at 12 M.

1/2138 I enclose a précis of the ceremonial that was observed.

2/2138 I enclose also a copy of the remarks made by me - as

3/2138 Dean and a translation of the Emperor's reply. The ceremony was in exact accordance with the provisions of enclosure one.

The Emperor looked pale, weak and sick - his appearance was worse than it was at the audience of November 14th.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Ceremonial observed at the audience.
2. Remarks made by Mr Denby.
3. Translation of Emperor's reply.

Ceremonial to be observed at the new year audience of Foreign representatives and their staffs to be held February 14th, 1895.

His Majesty will ascend the Throne in the Wen Hua Pavilion. Prince Kung will stand to the right of His Majesty. Two Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen will usher the 8 foreign representatives who will enter the central Wen Hua Gate passing over the raised walk - and proceed to the Wen Hua Pavilion passing through the central door where they will bow for the first time.

They

They will go foward a few paces and make a second bow and on reaching the place where they will take up their position between the dragon pillars they will bow again. The Foreign representatives will compise the first row.

Two Secretaries of the Tsungli Yamên will usher the Secretaries and Attachés into the Pavilion; the same ceremonial being observed. These officers will stand behind the Ministers forming the second row.

Two Secretaries of the Tsungli Yamên will usher the

the Interpreters, who will also observe the same ceremonial - standing behind the Secretaries and attachés forming the third row. After the third row has been formed the whole company will advance to the front of the middle steps and make another bow which will be acknowledged by a bow from His Majesty.

Mr. Denby will read the congratulatory address of the Diplomatic Body, a translation of which will be read afterwards by the Interpreter. This having been done

done the Foreign Ministers will return to their places between the dragon pillars.

Prince Kung will then kneel and listen to His Majesty's reply in Manchu. He will then advance to where the Ministers are standing and deliver His Majesty's remarks in Chinese. After this is done the Foreign Ministers will make a bow which will be acknowledged by a bow from His Majesty.

The Ministers and Secretaries of the Tsungli Yamên will then conduct the Foreign representatives, secretaries, attachés and interpreters respectively

respectively, who will retire
backwards making a bow
a few paces and another
at the last door through
which they will leave the
Hall and descend by the
eastern steps passing out
of the east Iwa Gate.

Your Majesty:

The members of the Diplomatic Body accredited to the court of Your Majesty and resident at Peking have the honor to offer to Your Majesty their sincere and most respectful felicitations on the occasion of the new year just entered upon. It is gratifying to know that the bonds of friendship exist between Your Majesty and all the Powers which are represented here to-day, and it is our conviction that the gracious reception accorded to us by Your Majesty will tend to strengthen those bonds.

That

That such may be the case is our present wish.

The members of the Diplomatic Body beg, also, to be allowed to give expression to their hope that under the enlightened rule of Your Majesty the blessings of peace and happiness will be granted during the year that has just commenced to Your Majesty and the people of China.

Emperor's reply to address made by Colonel Denby Dean of the Diplomatic Body at audience on 14th February 1895.

The purport of Your Excellencies' congratulatory address is most happy and auspicious. We are very much pleased and gratified with it. We hope that the President of the United States may have all his desires gratified during the new year and that under him happiness and prosperity may daily increase.

We also express Our wish that

that Your Excellencies may long continue to reside in China, that everything may go with you properly and that the friendly relations existing between China and Your respective Countries may become daily cemented and more close. This is our earnest hope.

P.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

From Peking

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

FEB 21 1895

February 19, 1895.

Received 2:57 P. M.

Gresham

Washington.

Confirmed Feb. 22/95

February nineteenth. I sent yesterday a telegram to Japan stating that Li Hung Chang had been named Plenipotentiary. His honors were restored to-day; he will ~~hand over~~ his duties as Vice Roy; he will be here on the twenty first instant. Japan was asked to name a place of meeting of plenipotentiaries. His credentials will be full powers to conclude and to sign Peace Treaty. Nothing was said about telegram from Japan of seventeenth instant.

Denby.

recd by mail

DIPLOMATIC

APR 8 1895

No 2139

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 19, 1895.

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Transmits substance of

China's telegram to Japan.

No 2139

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 19, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the next leaf a translation of my cipher telegram sent to you this day relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 19, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

I sent yesterday a telegram to Japan stating that Li Hung chang had been named Plenipotentiary. His honors were restored. To-day he will hand over his duties as Viceroy. He will be here the twenty first instant. Japan was asked to name a place of meeting of Plenipotentiaries. His credentials will be full powers to conclude and to sign treaty peace. Nothing was said about telegram from Japan of seventeenth instant.

Dudley

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No 2140

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 19, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Received May 15.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 14 1895

Subject:

Confirms telegram asking for the appointment of Mr Emens as Vice Consul General.

No. 2140

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 19. 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of this date as follows:

"February nineteenth.
"Recommend Emens'
"appointment Vice
"Consul General."

That telegram never reached the Department

This telegram was sent at the instance of the Consul General. I had previously

previously approved of this
appointment in writing.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 19, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Recd. May 15.

No. 8.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

All CABLE MESSAGES received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose, under and subject to conditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

CHIEF CLERK,
Received
FEB 20 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

TWO AMERICAN CABLES FROM NEW YORK TO GREAT BRITAIN.
CONNECTS WITH FOUR ANGLO-AMERICAN AND ONE DIRECT U. S. ATLANTIC CABLES.
DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE.
CABLE CONNECTION WITH CUBA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
MESSAGES SENT TO, AND RECEIVED FROM, ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

OFFICES IN AMERICA:

All Offices (21,000) of the Western Union Telegraph Company and its Connections.

OFFICES IN GREAT BRITAIN:

LONDON: No. 31 Royal Exchange, E. C. No. 109 Fenchurch Street, E. C.
LIVERPOOL: 45 Exchange Buildings.
GLASGOW: No. 29 Gordon Street.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	No. OF WORDS.	FROM
1	Nomg	12 Son		Peking

RECEIVED at Washn DC 7 Feb 19 1895

Gresham
Washington (DC)
February 19
recommend Emens appointment
Vice Consul general
Peking.
Walter S. Emens

Acting Sec'y of State

No. 2141

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 20, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Confirms Department's telegram relating to neutrality.

No 2141.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 20, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the 18th instant relating to neutrality; which was received by me yesterday at 6:30 P.M.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher]

February 18, 1895.

Denby Minister,

Peking.

Telegram seventeenth received. This Government cannot consistently with its attitude of impartial neutrality ask Japan to consent to an Armistice.

Gresham.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895
2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ask. by Number and File.
APR 8 1895

No. 214

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 20, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Yeh Chih-chao and Kung
Chao sentenced.

Synopsis:
Decapitation ordered to take
place in the Autumn.

One enclosure.

No. 2142

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 20, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/2142 As illustrating Chinese methods I enclose a translation of a decree condemning General Yeh Chih-chao and Kung Chao to death. The former was guilty of cowardice, and the latter abandoned Port Arthur.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Decree issued by the Emperor and published in Peking Gazette, February 18, 1895.

A Decree issued by the Emperor and published in Manuscript Peking Gazette February 18th, 1895.

The Board of Punishments have presented a memorial stating that in obedience to our commands they held a strict investigation into the cases of the degraded officers Yeh-Chih-chao and Kung Chao yü and have according to the statutes rendered their decision which they ask us will carry into effect.

Let the degraded General of Chihli, Yeh Chih-chao and

and the degraded Taotai Kung Chao yü, as decided by the said Board, to be sentenced to decapitation, but to be imprisoned until the Autumnal assize when the execution will take place.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
aaa
APR 8 1895

No 2143

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. of STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 21, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Japan will not reply to China until China accepts her conditions.

No 2143

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 21, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I append on the verso leaf a translation of my cipher telegram of yesterday relating to peace negotiations.

After the matter which was telegraphed to you there were in the same telegram some directions relating to the mode of preparing letters patent, and a request that

a

a copy of the letter given to Li Hung Chang to wired to Japan before his departure on his mission.

I was much pressed for time and did not think it necessary to wire these details.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

February 20. 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

Received following: American Minister, Peking. Japanese Government requests you will communicate the following to the Chinese Government: Before making the reply requested by the Chinese Government in the telegram of the United States Minister at Peking of the eighteenth instant the Japanese Government desires to be assured that the Chinese Plenipotentiary is to be despatched subject to the conditions mentioned in my telegram of the

the seventeenth instant. Dum.

Derby.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State. FEB 23 1895

From Peking,

Feb. 21, 1895.

Received 9 A.M.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU FEB 23 1895

confirmed Feb 25/95

GRESHAM,

Washington.

February 20th, received the following:American Minister Peking, February 19, Japanese Government requests you will communicate the following to the Chinese Government: Before making the reply requested by the Chinese Government in the telegram of the United States Minister at Peking of the 18th instant the Japanese Government desires to be assured that the Chinese Plenipotentiary is to be despatched subject to the conditions mentioned in my telegram of the 17th instant.. Dun.

Denby.

Dept.

...ent is to be despatched subject to the conditions mentioned
...ment desires to be warned that the Chinese Plenipo-
...ese Ministers at Peking of the real import of the pa-
...ty requested by the Chinese Government in the telegram of
...ministers and forward to the Chinese Government: Before making
...Department has, however, requested Mr. Fitz com-

DARESHAN.

Amendment.

Department 2008. Repeated the Legation:American Ministers
Peking. Department 81. Japanese Government requests Mr. Fitz com-

Peking.

Dec. 12, 1898.

Received 9 A.M.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No. 2144.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 21, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
APR 8 1895
DEPT. of STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Bringing mariner to Peking.

Synopsis:

The Department authorizes it to be done.

№ 2144.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 21, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of your cipher telegram of the nineteenth instant relating to bringing marines to Peking.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher.]

February 19. 1895.

Denby Minister,

Peking.

You say troops have arrived with China's consent to protect other Legations. In cooperation with Carpenter you are authorized to bring up marines under similiar conditions.

Gresham.

Dip

Filed under Legation of the U.S. to China

Peking, China, Feb 26 1895

Sir:

I have the honor to report my arrival at this city — my home — on leave of absence from my post at Peking, China, as authorized by you. I have the honor to state that the ninety days allowed for transit from Peking to Washington and thence home expire today and I request your authority to avail myself of the statutory

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington,
D. C.

INDEX BUREAU REC'D DEPT. OF STATE
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU MAR 6 1895

two/ months' leave beginning tomorrow, February 27th.

I take the liberty to request that the accounting officers of the Department be instructed to send to me here a statement of my account up to and including today.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Secretary of Legation.

Peking - China.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack + file
[We also have this proclamation from the Navy Dept.] J. Gade
APR 19 1895

No. 2145

Legation of the United States,

Peking, February 21, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 16 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 24 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

√ Ack. 26 April 95 JM

Subject:

Chinese war proclamation.

Synopsis:

Japanese derided; rewards for heads.

One enclosure.

No. 2145.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 21, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have received from Vice Consul Bandinel the enclosed translation of a proclamation issued by Sung, Imperial Commissioner and joint Commander of the Pei Yang Squadron, at and near Newchwang, a few days ago. It will be seen that the Chinese generals

1/2145

generals have no wise abated their fantastic style and that rewards are still offered for Japanese heads. The thirteenth February the heads of two Japanese killed in an affair of out-posts were exposed outside the East gate of Newchwang.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Proclamation issued by Sung

Proclamation.

Sung, Imperial Commissioner and joint-Commander of the Pei Yang Squadron, issues the following Proclamation for the information of the public.

Seeing that the Japanese (lit. Dwarfs) are now unwarrantably causing trouble, our Generals on every frontier should scrupulously observe the terms of existing Treaties, and not lightly give occasion of offence.

Before proper precautions could be taken, the Japanese treacherously put their armies in motion to invade and take possession of our various dependencies and

bring

bring trouble on our land.
The Emperor, greatly incensed
at this, has ordered the army
to be mobilized, and the Imperial
troops led forth; moreover,
that with all despatch complete
preparations be made for war.
As to the soldiers who failed
in duty, and behaved disorderly
in Corea, these have already
been arrested by their
commanding officers and
handed over to the Board
of Punishments to be dealt
with as their offences
deserve. Fresh military
regulations have been issued,
so that the army is now in
proper order, and the
discipline

discipline all that it ought to be.

I have under my command upwards of one hundred regiments, all of which will be assembled on the day appointed. What difficulty therefore shall I experience in overcoming the puny opposition of these tiny creatures (lit. the opposition offered by the praying-mantis that stretched out its wings to stay the chariot wheels), and in pursuing and hunting them down.

Nevertheless it may be that some of our soldiers are coerced into the service of the Japanese, who force them into the forefront

of

of the battle, to the appalling destruction of life and limb. Alas! who can sufficiently compassionate such a fate as this!

Some of the people, also, are forced to take sides with the enemy, and compelled to furnish horses, carts, and men for the transport of war material. And all this during the present rigorous weather, with frost and snow on the ground, the people in extremity of distress and fleeing in all directions. Such calamities as these call down the wrath of Heaven on the offenders' heads!

This

This Proclamation therefore is issued for the purpose of informing the public, especially those who have been forced into unwilling service, whether Chinese or Coreans.

You are loyal subjects and on no account willing to ally yourselves to rebels. Therefore if you exert yourselves and return you will be received with compassion; if you wish to join the ranks of our army you will be furnished with food and pay; or, if you prefer to return home, travelling expenses will be allowed.

all

All persons, whether civil or military, returing to thier allegiance, and found worthy of merit, shall have thier meritorious services abundantly rewarded. Yea even if the Japanese repent of thier crimes, and submit to the Emperor, he will treat them with the same clemency, for his benevolence is all-embracing.

A list of rewards is appended hereto that no one may think his services to the state shall go unrecognized. ~ .

Repent at once. Dont disregard.

Tremblingly

Trustingly obey.

List of Rewards.

(1) For the arrest and decapitation of Ta Kiao, Kwei Chie, Shan Shien, Yin Peng and Ta Shan T'ang, a reward of Taels 10,000, and to be recommended to the Throne for the rank of a 4th Button.

(2) For the capture of a Japanese field-gun, a reward of Taels 100.

(3) For the capture of every Japanese officer, Taels 20.

(4) For reliable information regarding the enemy, Taels 20.

(5) For every volunteer corps enrolled to fight the enemy, Honorable Mention and a

a reward of money on
the production of the
decapitated heads of the
criminals, or stands of
arms.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Aud'd. See Ins 1058
of April 27. 1895
MAY 10 1895
aaa

Secretary of State.
APR 25 1895

No. 2146

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 23, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 10 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Interview with Li Hung-chang.

Synopsis:

He asks minister to befriend China. All intervention refused.

No 2146.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 23, 1895.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Li Hung-chang arrived at Peking the 21st instant. He had an interview yesterday with the Emperor which is said to have been satisfactory.

In the afternoon he called on some of my colleagues and myself. He appeared to

to be in good health and spirits. He was accompanied by Sun Fu-wen and Hsu Ying-i, members of the Yuan.

Li immediately asked me to render assistance to China and to procure my Government to persuade Japan to terminate the war. I told him flatly and firmly that my Government would in no wise intervene in the war, nor interfere in any way between the two nations. He said that as I had been acting as mediator I could use my influence with Japan to befriend China

China. I told him I had never acted as mediator, nor transmitted a word to the Government of Japan, except the written telegrams which were handed me by the Tsungli Yamên. I told him this ground had been gone over between the Yamên and myself fifty times, and its members had always been perfectly aware of my position. A draft of the proposed letters patent to be given to Li as plenipotentiary was then produced, and discussed by Messrs Sun and Hsu:

I

I told them that the
telegram from Japan of
the seventeenth instant
required China to accept
the conditions therein stated
before Japan would receive
any peace mission.
They said they intended to
put in Li's credentials a
statement that China
agreed to treat on the
conditions stated. I told
them that would not do
at all; that the Japanese
plenipotentiaries would
not see those credentials
until more than a month
had elapsed; that there
was no objection to putting
such

such a clause in the letters patent, but if they wanted peace they must immediately wire Japan that her conditions were accepted, and ask when, and where the plenipotentiaries would meet. They said they would wire to-day. It is likely, also, that they will send a copy of the letters patent by telegraph, and if the powers therein given are not satisfactory to Japan they will be amended.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

File

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aab
APR 19 1895

No 2147.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 25, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

APR 24 1895

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Enquiry as to place of meeting of plenipotentiaries. Cipher telegrams, - letters patent.

Three enclosures.

No 2147.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 25, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I sent to Japan the twenty third instant by telegraph the originals in Chinese of three papers, translations whereof are herewith enclosed.

1273
2147

The first paper professes to accept the conditions of peace negotiations stated by Japan,

and

and relates also to the letters patent to be given to the Chinese plenipotentiary.

The second relates to the right claimed by the plenipotentiary to send telegrams in cipher to his Government.

The third is a translation of the letters patent intended to be given to the plenipotentiary.

I sent these papers in the original Chinese text in order that there might be no misapprehension by Japan as to their meaning.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
No 1. February 23, 1895.
2. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
No 2, February 23, 1895.
3. Translation of letters patent.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
No 1. February 23, 1895.

Your Excellency,

Li Hung-chang has been appointed by the Emperor Ambassador with full power to consult with Japan on questions.

According to international law plenipotentiaries can communicate with their own Governments by secret telegrams.

The Diplomatic representatives have this opinion.

We therefore ask Your Excellency to telegraph Japan beforehand informing them that action be taken according to international law and that they do not stop it. We also hope Your Excellency will favor us with Japan's reply.

Cards of Prince and Ministers with compliments.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr Denby.
No. 2. February 23, 1895.

Your Excellency.

Your Excellency sent to the Yamên a telegram from Japan dated the 17th instant and another dated the 20th (should be 19th) instant, the contents of which we have duly perused. Li Hung-chang has been appointed plenipotentiary with full powers. In the telegram of Japan of the 17th instant it is desired to discuss various questions. In all these he has full power to perform this duty.

We beg that Your Excellency will communicate to the Japanese Government and enquire the place Japan has decided where the meeting of the plenipotentiaries will take place and to ask

for

for an answer by wire as soon as possible to the end that at the proper time he may start on his journey. The present letters patent are in meaning the same as the letters issued by Japan. We send a copy of the text for Your Excellency's inspection and We ask Your Excellency to consider whether or not the text should be telegraphed to Japan.

Cards of Prince and Ministers with compliments.

His Majesty the Emperor of China proclaims these Letters Patent by Imperial Authority.

Being desirous of reestablishing sincere relations of friendship with the Emperor of Japan We specially appoint Li Hung-chang Earl of the 1st class, Grand Secretary under the designation of Wen Hua Tien, Viceroy of the Province of Chihli and Minister Superintendent of Trade for the Northern Ports, as Our Ambassador with full powers to confer with the Plenipotentiaries with full powers appointed by Japan and to conjointly negotiate with them and act as circumstances may require. He has the full powers to settle beforehand the terms of a treaty of peace and to sign and seal the same.

The

The said Ambassador is a public spirited and loyal officer to his country. During his previous career he has established the name of rendering meritorious services to his Government and he will certainly be able, in a very careful manner, to perform his duties and bring about a close union of friendship between the two countries, thus fulfilling the trust We have reposed in him.

The terms of the treaty agreed upon, however, must first be submitted for Our inspection, and if they are found to be satisfactory and in order they will receive Our Imperial sanction.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Encl. See Instr. #1058
of April 27, 1895
MAY 10 1895

Secretary of State.
APR 25 1895

No 2148.

Legation of the United States.

Peking. February 26, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAY 10 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations

Synopsis:

A discussion of the question of intervention as now affecting peace. Interview with Li.

No 2148.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 26, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that for the last few days Li Hung-chang has been engaged in interviewing the heads of Legations here. He still seems to cling to the impracticable idea that the European Powers will not permit Japan to seize any of the territory of

of China. He puts to each Minister the question: will your Government intervene if China refuses to grant a cession of territory? As far as I can learn he has received little encouragement, though some of the Ministers may have consented to write to their Governments on the subject. Li has been told by the French, and Russian Ministers, that until it is known what particular territory Japan will demand no question relating to cession can be considered by their Governments. Russia, for instance, would be interested in

in the question of the
cession of Manchuria, as
she would, probably not
want Japan for a neighbor.
France in like manner
might object to the cession
of any territory adjoining
Tonquin. Evidently it is
impossible at this time
for any Government to broach
with Japan the question of
cession of territory. Japan
may, for aught that is
known, demand a mile
square here and there,
analogous to cessions
heretofore made at Tientsin,
Hankow, Canton, or even
Shanghai, to England.

She

She may on the other hand demand Formosa, and the Liaotung peninsula. Until her views are made public any intervention would be unwarranted by international law, even on the ground of self protection. In conversation with my colleagues I have always asked them to quit, for the time at least, all talk about intervention, and on the contrary to say positively that in no conceivable event will their Governments intervene - just as I have always said with regard to my own

own Government. I have told them again and again, that had it not been for the phantom of assistance to China, I would have made peace two months ago. As long as China thinks that at the crucial moment English, or Russian, guns will be turned against Japanese ships, she will delay direct action. My colleagues, however, conceive themselves unable to follow my advice. They do not wish to be bound by a declaration of neutrality under all circumstances. They desire that Li shall go as plenipotentiary

plenipotentiary to make peace, and they advise him that there can be no intervention now, but they hold out the indefinite hope that there may be in the future.

To my view there is no good for China in foreign intervention. It is more likely to produce dismemberment than any action that may be taken by Japan. Unless Russia, and England, and France are more disinterested than history shows them to be they will each demand heavy compensation for any services rendered to China.

In

In private conversation with the members of the Yamen, I have tried to turn their views from the spectre of intervention to what I conceive to be China's true policy, and that is a sincere, friendly, rapprochement with Japan.

Japan would not, it is likely, remain deaf to representations that the two great oriental nations ought to have the same interests in the long run.

Of the two oriental powers which were opened to western civilization by foreign guns, one accepted the results, the other rejected them.

Japan's

Japan is now doing for China what the United States did for Japan. She has learnt western civilization and she is forcing it on her unwieldy neighbor. The only hope in the world for China is to take the lesson, rude as it is, to heart.

I had this afternoon an interview of two hours with Li Hung-chang. He claimed that the telegrams which I sent to Japan - see my despatch N° 2147 of the 25-th instant - did not mean that he should agree to cede territory, but simply that he should discuss the

the question. I told him that it was exactly because I was not sure of the meaning of the telegram that I sent it in the Chinese text, but if it meant simply to discuss the question, and if China adhered to that view, he might as well go home, Japan having announced in the telegram of the 17th February that no plenipotentiary would be received unless he were pledged to agree to cede territory. I told him it was of little use for him and me, and our interpreters, to agree about the meaning of the telegram, because

Japan

Japan would construe it for herself, and we would have her answer in a day or two, as I had already sent the English text to Japan.

I tried to make him understand that the question was really of no great importance, because no territory was specified. Japan might content herself with certain concessions similiar to those granted to England, France and the United States at Shanghai. He continually came back to the proposition that the United States should assist

assist China. I told him that it was absolutely useless to argue that point with me, that my instructions were to do nothing that even in appearance would tend to compromise our neutrality, and that he must understand that in talking to him I did not speak as Minister of the United States, but in a purely private capacity and as an old friend to him and to China. He said China had sent an autographic letter to the President and the President had told the Chinese minister that I might still continue my

my good offices for China.
I told him that I had
received nothing special
from the President since the
delivery of the autographic
letter, but that what the
President meant was that
I might continue to act as
an intermediary, and I
was willing to continue my
labours, arduous and
vexatious as they were.
I told him that if he desired
to hear my views as to what
his conduct ought to be I
would state them
unofficially and personally.
He said he would be glad
to hear them. I said that
it

it seemed to me that he should turn his back on European powers and turn his face to Japan; that policy dictated a complete abandonment of the idea of trying to secure intervention; that he should reason with Japan that if she crippled China her trade and commerce would suffer; that he would use all the arguments drawn from geographical situation, national analogies, and commercial interests to induce Japan not to dismember China; and he should strenuously endeavor

to

to save from cession any
of the main land. I repeated
in short what I have already
written in the other parts
of this despatch. As I
went along he continually
approved by nodding his
head - affirmatively and
by sundry ejaculations
every thing that I said.
When I concluded, he asked
me why I would not say
these things to Japan!
I told him I had nothing
to do with Japan, - and I
had hoped that we had
done with the question
of intervention.

The Viceroy is looking
very

very well. He greatly dreads going on his mission. He knows that he will be the scape-goat. If he dared, he would even now refuse to go, indeed I cannot say with certainty that he will go. Even yet he may decline on the ground that he will not consent to cede any territory.

His son Lord Li will go with him as secretary. It is understood that Colonel Foster will go as adviser. Mr W. N. Pethick, formerly Vice Consul at Tientsin will accompany him.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Inform Navy Dept that the Yamein have been notified.
APR 19 1895
Dis 50
April 20/95

№ 2149

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 28, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 19 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1895

Subject:
Designation of Francis M. Barber as Naval Attaché.

Synopsis:
Acknowledges receipt of despatch № 995.

No 2149

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 28, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 995 of January 5th, wherein you inform me that Commander Francis M. Barber has been designated as Naval Attaché to this Legation. I have notified the Tsungli Yamên of his appointment.

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State.
MAR 7 1895

From Peking.

March 2, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
MAR 2 1895

Confirmed March 5/95

Gresham,

Washington.

March 2. Japan agrees to receive Li. Changes are to be made in letters patent. Place of meeting Shimonoseki. Time not fixed. Plenipotentiary may use cipher.

Denby.

Shimonosaki South west of Hiroshima.

D of P
Ready to file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 8 1895

No. 2150

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 2, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Confirms telegram. Japan
accepts Li Hung-chang.

No. 2150

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 2, 1895.

To the Honorable,

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No 2150

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 2, 1895.

To the Honorable,

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

Translation

Telegram sent in cipher.

March 2, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

Japan agrees to receive Li. Changes are to be made in letters patent. Place of meeting Shimonoseki. Time not fixed. Plenipotentiary may use cipher.

Denby.

APR 10 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 10 1895

No 2151.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
China sends to Japan
English copy of letter patent.

One enclosure.

No. 2151

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 3, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
1/2151 enclose a copy of a telegram
sent by me this day to
Japan relating to peace
negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby
Encl. List of Enclosures.

7. Copy of telegram sent to
Mr Dun. March 3, 1895.

Copy

[Telegram sent]

Peking, March 3, 1895.

American Minister,

Tokyo.

March third. I send the English text of the letters patent sent in Chinese yesterday which please communicate to the Japanese Government: The Emperor of China proclaims these Letters Patent by Imperial authority.

Being desirous of reestablishing sincere relations of friendship with the Emperor of Japan I've specially appoint Li Hung-chang Earl of the 1st class, Grand Secretary under

under the designation of
Wēn Hua Tien, Viceroy of the
province of Chihli and
Minister Superintendent of
Trade for the Northern Ports,
as Our Ambassador with
full powers to confer with
the plenipotentiaries with
full powers appointed by
Japan and to conjointly
negotiate with them and
act as circumstances may
require. He has the full
powers to settle the terms
of a treaty of peace and
to sign and seal the same.
The said Ambassador is
a public spirited and loyal
officer to his country.

During

During his previous career
he has established the name
of rendering meritorious
services to his Government
and he will certainly be
able in a very careful
manner to perform his
duties and bring about a
close union of friendship
between the two Countries,
thus fulfilling the trust
We have reposed in him.
The terms of the treaty
agreed upon, however,
must be submitted for
Our inspection, and if
they are found to be
satisfactory and in order
they will receive Our
Imperial

Imperial Sanction.

Derby.

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. APR 10 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aab.
APR 10 1895

No 2152

Legation of the United States,

Peking, March 3, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Encloses copy of telegram of March 1st. from Japan.

No 2152

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 3, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a copy of the telegram received from Japan bearing date the first instant, relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Copy

[Telegram received]

Tokyo, March 1st, 1895.

American Minister

Peking.

March first. You are requested by the Japanese Government to communicate to the Chinese Government the following: Upon comparing the translations of the two notes and the letters patent with the telegraphed Chinese texts a great disparity has been found to exist owing no doubt, in part at least, to mutilations and transposition of the Chinese texts in transmission. The Japanese Government however accept the

the letters patent upon the following conditions:
First - the translation is to be amended as follows: at the begining the words "His Majesty" before the words "the Emperor of China" are to be suppressed. Suppress the words "beforehand" and "then", and the word "first" in the last clause is also to be suppressed.
Second - the original Chinese text is to be made to conform exactly to the amended translation. Special attention is invited to the clause giving the reason for the issuance of the letters patent.

The

The Chinese text as received by the Japanese Government implies that Japan is suing for peace. This recital must be made to conform in the Chinese text to the translation. The place of meeting will be Shimonoseki, and after the full powers of the Chinese plenipotentiary have been presented and found to be in good and due form the Japanese Government will permit Chinese plenipotentiary to communicate with his Government in cipher. Upon receipt of a copy of the Chinese text of the letters patent

patent amended, as above
indicated, the Japanese
Government will arrange
the date of meeting of the
plenipotentiary.

Dum.

Dip

Filed under Legation of the U.S. to China

DF DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 8 1895

Evansville, Indiana.
March 4th 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 6 1895

To the
Honorable Edwin F. Uhl
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Late Papers referred to D.P.M.G.

10 p.m. 7 March 95

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instruction of the 28th ultimo, covering certain Chinese documents for translation.

I regret to have to state that I am unable to translate these papers. They are written in the Chinese "grass character", or running hand, which I am imperfectly acquainted with. To the best of my knowledge no foreigner, either in China or abroad, has sufficiently mastered this writing to be able to read it without the assistance of a trained Chinese teacher. Mr. Rockhill will corroborate this statement.

Should delay be possible, I will forward translations immediately upon my return to China. Pending your instructions I enclose the said papers herewith.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Secretary of Legation at Peking.

Dispo

CONFIDENTIAL.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 15 1895

Secretary of State
APR 13 1895

No 2153

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 5, 1895.

rec'd apr. 16. 1895

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 8 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject, confirming telegram sent Apr. 12.
APR 15 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Interview with the Viceroy Li.

Synopsis:
Reforms and progress explained. Emperor's acquiescence therein.

No 2153

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 5, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Viceroy Li Hung-chang left Peking this morning for Tientsin.

As soon as he is informed of the time of the meeting of the plenipotentiaries to make peace, he will start for Shimonoseki. He will take with him Col. John W Foster, Mr W. F. Petlick, Dr Lin Luen

Luen Tai, an American student of Chinese Faith, and, probably, Dr. B. C. Atterbury, an American missionary. Mr. Dennison, an American will act as legal adviser for Japan.

As the Legations at Tokyo and here have conducted the peace negotiations, and as they respectively represent the two Countries - Japan and China - a greater prominence to Americans could not have been reached, unless I had accepted the Viceroy's invitation to accompany him, which, of course, was refused. It remains to be seen whether these unusual services, so rendered, to China, will bear any compensation in the future.

Three

There is considerable jealousy among other nations aroused at the prominence attained by Americans, but, as they are all vastly more jealous of each other than they are of us, such jealousy does not find open expression.

The afternoon of the fourth instant I had a long, personal, and entirely unofficial interview with the Viceroy, to which he informally invited me.

After discussing some matters, which need not now be adverted to, we got on the subject of the means to be adopted in order to raise the Japanese war indemnity, and, incidental thereto, the future of China.

I beg that the report of this interview

interview shall be treated as
confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL.

I said to the Viceroy that he would have to pay an enormous sum of money to Japan, and that before he left Peking he ought to prepare the minds of the Emperor and Empress Dowager for a heavy sacrifice, and that it was absolutely necessary that he should intimate to them how the money might be raised. I told him that it was not possible for China to raise a war indemnity by ordinary taxation, that such a burden laid on the people might produce rebellion. I said that China might at the same time pay a great indebtedness, and develop her resources, and

attain

CONFIDENTIAL.

attain prosperity. I told him that railway construction, banking, and mining privileges, properly handled would constitute the sources of great revenues, and, that before he left Peking he ought to have it understood that on his return from his mission he should have the power to control, and direct material progress. I suggested to him further that the movement and the measures in this regard ought to be in the hands of English speaking people, that the second language of the Chinese was English, and to insure harmony in all the branches of the Government

Government the English language
should be the basis of communication.
Of course, this scheme did not
exclude from public employment
the people of the various
nationalities of Europe, but
it required them to furnish
men who spoke English.
The Viceroy declared that he
agreed with every word I
uttered, and asked me if I
could produce men competent
to engage in the work of
reform. I said that I had no
doubt that such men could be
found in the United States,
but it must be understood
that neither my Government, nor
I, could, or would do anything
officially

officially in the matter.
The next morning, yesterday,
the Viceroy saw the Emperor and
Empress Dowager alone.
They told him that he was invested
with complete power to do whatever
he pleased as Ambassador, that
whatever he did they would approve,
that he had control of the destiny
of China, and that he must
make peace.
The Viceroy then, at some lengths,
explained to their Majesties the
views that I had expressed to
him. He told them that if he
made peace China must
immediately inaugurate and
carry out reforms in every
branch of the Government, and
must

must institute and push vigorously methods of modern progress.

Their Majesties told him, that when he returned, every suggestion he made would be executed, and Carte-blanche would be accorded him in all things.

He explained that he would be compelled to cede territory and he was authorized to do so.

He was very grateful to me for having so opportunely put him in the line of so freely addressing their Majesties.

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 9 1895

Secretary of State.
MAR 9 1895

From Peking

March 6., 1895.

Received March 7th 12 hr 0 M.

Gresham,

Washington,

March 6. Letters are satisfactory confirm by mail. Confirmed March 17

to Japan. Chinese Embassador to reach Shimonoseki in two weeks. Li left Peking yesterday, he is empowered to cede territory, he has Carte blanche.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File
APR 19 1895

No 213-4

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 6, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1895

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Confirms telegram. Letters are satisfactory to Japan.

No 2154

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 6, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this date relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

Peking, March 6, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

March sixth. Letter are satisfactory to Japan. Chinese Ambassador to reach Shimonoseki in two weeks. Li left Peking yesterday. He is empowered to cede territory. He has Carte-blanche.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

No. 2155

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 6, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 19 1895

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Encloses copy of telegram
of Japan fixing date of
meeting of plenipotentiaries

One enclosure.

No. 2155

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 6, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

7/2155 I have the honor to enclose a translation of the telegram received yesterday from Japan relating to peace negotiations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Copy of telegram. Mr. Dun to Mr. Denby.

Translation

[Telegram received in cipher]

Tokyo. March 4, 1895.

American Minister,

Peking.

March fourth. You are requested by the Japanese Government to communicate to the Chinese Government the following: The draft letters patent as telegraphed are satisfactory, and being duly signed, and sealed will be accepted by the Japanese Government. The time of the meeting of the Plenipotentiaries will be communicated after the arrival of the Chinese Plenipotentiary at Shimonoseki. In order, however, that necessary preparations may be made, the Chinese Plenipotentiary should arrange his departure so as to reach Shimonoseki not earlier than two weeks from this date. The

Japanese

Japanese Government wish to know, as soon as possible, contemplated date of departure and number of suite of the Chinese Plenipotentiary.

Dun.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAY 9 1895

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
MAY 9 1895

No 2156

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 7, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject:
Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:
Protest of Chang and Shao.
Comments on allusions made
to Minister.

One enclosure.

No 2156

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 7, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/2156

I enclose a clipping from the North China News of the eighteenth ultimo, being the protest of the Chinese Plenipotentiaries Chang and Shao touching their treatment in Japan.

In this paper two allusions are made to me. It is stated that I received an assurance

assurance from the Tsungli Yamên that the Plenipotentiaries were clothed with full powers to negotiate and sign a treaty of peace. This statement was undoubtedly made inferentially, at least. I was assured by the Tsungli Yamên shortly after I had prepared and delivered letters patent containing full powers, that these letters had been substantially adopted, and given to the Plenipotentiaries. This statement was untrue. I have since learned, that the pretended excuse for not adopting my form of letters patent was that the Emperor had

had already signed one set of letters, and the Yamên did not dare to present another to him. This is, also, false. The form sent by me was in the hands of the Yamên before either letter was signed.

The truth of history requires the statement to be made that the sending of Chang and Shao was a pretence. At that time China had not fully determined to make peace. She still clung to the hope of foreign intervention, and was only seeking some method of putting Japan in the wrong in the eyes of

of the European powers.
It was only after Li Hung chang, a few days ago, had made the tour of the foreign Legations and had convinced himself that Russia, France and England would in no event intervene until the designs of Japan were fully developed, - and not then, unless their interests were imperilled, that full powers were given to him.
The other allusion made to myself is, that I gave to Mr Chang the opinion, that under the rules of international law, he would be entitled

to

to correspond with his
Government in cipher.
I did say this to him
alone, at my own house,
and in private conversation.
That I stated the law correctly
is now admitted by Japan.
She coniceder eapressly that
after the interchange of
credentials the Chinese
Plenipotentiary may telegraph
to his Government in cipher.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Clipping from North China News,
February 18, 1895.

THE PEACE MISSION TO JAPAN.

The Japanese press have published the official documents which passed between the Chinese and Japanese Peace Plenipotentiaries at Hiroshima, but in that publication there is the omission of the last communication made by the Chinese to the Japanese Plenipotentiaries, which is as follows:—

To the Plenipotentiaries of
His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Excellencies,—In the conference held with Your Excellencies to-day, after listening to the speech of His Excellency Count Ito, of which a copy was handed to us and a memorandum setting forth the reasons why negotiations for peace were terminated, Your Excellencies took leave of us, with the information that arrangement would be made for our early transportation from your country.

Before our departure we deem it our duty to our Government and to ourselves that we should leave with Your Excellencies the following statement. The commission which we handed you in our conference of yesterday, as we have fully explained, does confer upon us full powers to negotiate a treaty, and we have stated to Your Excellencies that we were prepared to sign with you a treaty of peace, if our negotiations should reach a satisfactory conclusion. This is confirmed in the most solemn and authoritative manner in the letter of our August Sovereign addressed to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, which we exhibited to you in our first conference and which we solicited the privilege of delivering to His Imperial Majesty, but which request Your Excellencies declined to grant. A translation of that letter accompanies this communication.

We cannot agree with Your Excellencies that the instructions in our commission to wire for Imperial sanction the result of our negotiation in any way impairs or modifies our powers to sign a treaty. As we have already stated to you its object was to insure the more prompt ratification and execution of the treaty when signed.

That our interpretation of our power is supported by our Government is proved by the fact that at the request of your Government the United States Minister at Peking received from the Tsungli Yamên an assurrance that we were clothed with full powers to negotiate and sign a treaty of peace. Besides we offered in our conference to-day to have any technical defects which you thought existed in our commission corrected by telegraph.

The commission which we submitted to you is similar in form to those with which His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China has been accustomed to invest His Plenipotentiaries when despatched to other lands for the negotiation of treaties, and so far as we are aware this is the first instance such credentials have been rejected.

Ours is a mission of peace and it does not become us at this time to discuss the unfriendly allusions contained in the speech respecting the Government of China. We need only express our deep regret that the earnest efforts which we have put forth to carry out the wishes of our August Sovereign for a speedy and satisfactory termination of the war which now distracts the two neighbouring nations have proven fruitless.

We cannot, however, close this communication without expressing our surprise at the manner in which we have been deprived of the customary privileges of Plenipotentiaries on a mission of peace. We have been informed by Count Ito that telegraphic communications in cipher with our Government would not be permitted, and we have been notified by an official of the Japanese Foreign Office that a cipher telegram addressed to us has been received but that it could not be delivered until we furnish the private code of our Government for its translation. Before our departure from Peking we were assured by the Minister of the United States in that capital that we would be permitted in accordance with international practice, to freely communicate in cipher with our Government by telegraph.

We conclude with the expression of our thanks for the trouble the Japanese Government has taken in bringing us to this city and for its hospitable entertainment while here, and with assurances to Your Excellencies of our distinguished consideration.

(Signed.) {Chang. / Shao.

No 2157. Acad May 3.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
To Secy of Agriculture
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

April 20/95

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States.

Peking, March 8th, 1895.

—Mr. Charles Denby—

to the

—Secretary of State.—

—Subject—

Informs Department of having sent to the Department of Agriculture some seeds and scions of the Chinese persimmon.

No 2157.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, March 8th, 1895.

To the Honorable
Secretary of State.
Washington D.C.
U. S. A.

Sir:

In compliance with the instructions contained in your despatch No 984. of the 15th December last, I have the honor to inform you that I have sent to the Consul General at Shanghai, two packages of seeds and slips of the Chinese persimmon addressed to the Department of Agriculture, with the request that they be forwarded to Washington in the Government pouch. Owing to close of navigation I could not send them earlier. I have the honor to be, Sir

Your obedient Servant.
Charles Denby

slip

N-110

Secretary of State. MAR 11 1895

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. MAR 11 1895

From Peking

Gresham

March 10, 1895.

Received 1.41 P. M.

Washington.

Confirmed March 12

March tenth. Chinese Army routed, New Chwang taken sixth. Foreigners safe.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

No 2158.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 10, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1895

Subject:

War news.

Synopsis:

Newchwang taken the
6th March; foreigners safe.

No 2158.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 10, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram of this date relating to the fall of Newchwang.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

March 10, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

March tenth. Chinese army routed. Newchwang taken sixth. Foreigners safe.

Denby.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
To Secy of Navy. April 20, 1895
Ack & file. " " "
aaa
APR 19 1895

No. 2159

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 11, 1895.

Mr Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 19 1895

Subject:
Ambassadorial flag.

Synopsis:
Li Hung-chang's flag
as plenipotentiary to Japan

No 2159.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 11, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1/2159 I have the honor to enclose a drawing of the Chinese Ambassadorial flag which will be used by Li Hung-chang on his voyage to Japan as Plenipotentiary to make peace. A description thereof is as follows:

Oblong yellow flag with roundel

roundel over centre enclosing dragon rampant gardant surrounded by four Chinese characters:

"Ta Ching Yi Tung"

(meaning the Chinese Empire).

Beneath this the blue dragon and red pearl of the Chinese National Flag.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Drawing of Chinese Ambassadorial flag.

Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

No. 2160.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 13, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1895

Subject:
Capture of Liukungtao.

Synopsis:
Surrender of the fort;
suicide of Ting.

One enclosure.

No 2160.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 13, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a clipping from the Shanghai Mercury of the 25th ultimo, giving an account of the capture of Linkungtao.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Enclosures.

1. Clipping from Shanghai Mercury, February 25, 1895.

THE SURRENDER OF LIUKUNGTAO.

THE CAUSE.

HOW THE CHINESE SAILORS FOUGHT.

HOW THE CHINESE SOLDIERS RAN.

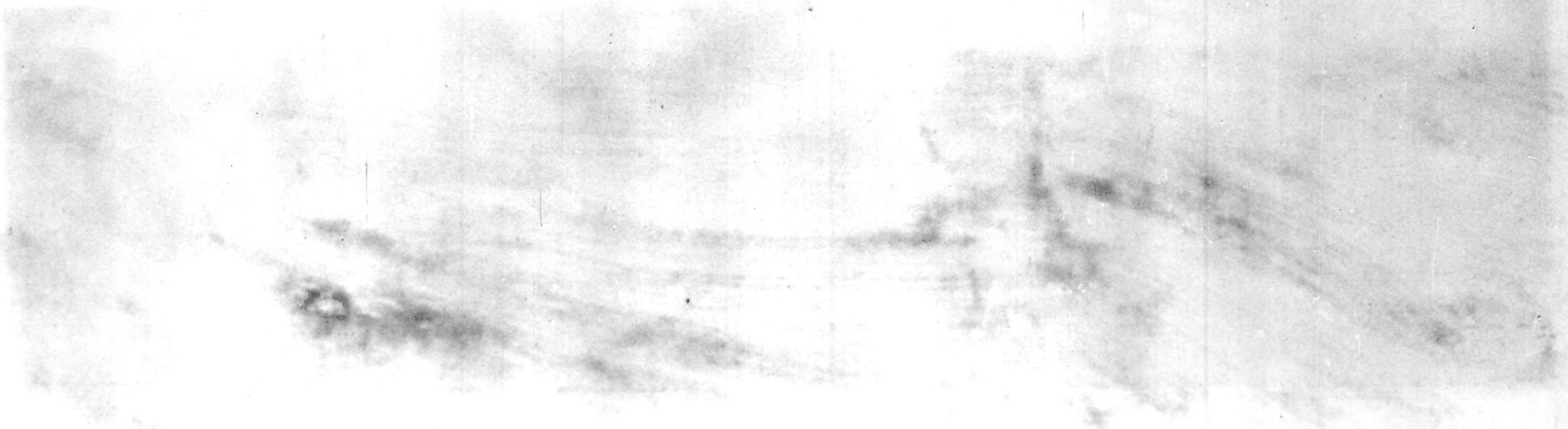
ADMIRAL ITO'S LETTERS.

(By our Special War Correspondent.)

Chefoo, 22nd February.

The Chinese island fortress of Liukungtao, with the remaining vessels of the Chinese Navy, surrendered to the Japanese Admiral on Tuesday, the 12th of February. The joint attack by the Japanese Army and Navy on the Japanese position at Weihaiwei commenced on the 30th of January and lasted thirteen days, during which period the Chinese fleet was almost destroyed, the land forts captured and the fort on Itan Island demolished. The attack was made by a combined naval and land force consisting of a fleet of about twenty-five men-of-war and the same number of torpedo-boats, and an army of twenty-five thousand men. The Chinese force consisted of about seven large men-of-war, thirteen torpedo-boats, six small gunboats, with the impregnable fortress of Liukungtao and the small fort on Itan Island. The Chinese soldiers also held the land forts, six in number, on the north and south side of the harbour. During the attack the Japanese received but trifling damage to their fleet, lost two or three torpedo-boats, and sustained, as is generally believed, a somewhat heavy loss among their men. The fighting at Liukungtao was the beginning of the resistance of the combined Chinese forces and without doubt it was the end. Now that the details of that resistance have leaked out the defence of the position of Weihaiwei from a theoretical point of view may be described as a "comedy of errors." To regard the defence seriously, however, it is undeniable that the Chinese sailors fought stubbornly, and in many cases heroically, and they found able and brave leaders in some of their own naval officers. They were assisted by a handful of Europeans who for the most part displayed endurance, courage and knowledge. There were some, however, amongst those Europeans who displayed none of these qualities, and this fact combined with the blundering and cowardice of the Chinese soldiers and officers on the mainland, guides one into an analysis of the defence of Weihaiwei. After this last exhibition, when the Chinese soldiers simply ran at the advance of the Japanese—and now the navy is no more,—little real resistance may be expected of China against any further Japanese expedition, and there is every reason to believe that when the Japanese commence their march on Peking the Chinese braves will display the same aptitude for running away as they did at Weihaiwei. The only real resistance the Japanese anticipated to meet with and really did meet with was from the small Chinese naval force, but now that navy has been broken up and during the present war will be heard off no more. The head of that naval force has gone, and with him has gone some of his most able officers. They killed themselves because they knew the Board of Punishments would demand the penalty of their lives. Thus does China destroy the few reliable officers she possesses in her service who are unfortunate enough by overwhelming circumstances to be outmatched by their opponents. As was telegraphed last week, Admiral Ting surrended on the 12th inst, and now that Liukungtao has been taken the destruction of Shanhaikwan and a triumphant march on Peking may be expected to follow almost immediately. True it is stated that the Chinese have hundreds of thousands of men, armed and drilled after a fashion, between Shanhaikwan, Taku and Peking, who have erected fortified camps, etc, but what avail numbers and entrenched positions when the Chinese braves on the advance of the enemy do not stop to consider about defending them. Romances are heard of Viceroy Li's celebrated trained bands and "General" von Hannecken's visionary army, but if the trained bands are there and something good has come out of Germany into China at last, the men may as well be absent if they have no capable officers to lead them. The average Chinese military officer is an arrant coward, and an unmitigated scoundrel, who exists on squeezing the miserable hirelings beneath him, and when there is any sign of an enemy, that officer is the first to run. The men are too well acquainted with such characteristics of their officers, and what wonder of the Japanese frequently find after a brief skirmish that in the following night their opponents "have folded their tents like the Arabs and silently crept away." Such was the case with the garrisons defending, or rather stationed—for there was no defence—in the land forts at Weihaiwei. So soon as the Japanese appeared and commenced firing there was a general stampede, the generals and officers taking the ignominious lead. The surrender of Liukungtao was due to three causes. The desertion of the Chinese soldiers, the meeting of Chinese soldiers and sailors, and the Chinese Futai or authorities who failed to send the promised reinforcements. These three causes were the primary means of the fall of Liukungtao, or at least the cause of the surrender at the time when it did. Undoubtedly the fort would have had to have surrendered at some period but the reasons given led primarily to the capitulation. That is the story from the Chinese and the reports of the Japanese naval and military officers may be found to agree with those causes. The Commander of the land forces distributed among the six forts of Weihaiwei was one General Liu, and if there was any official on whom the doom of decapitation could righteously fall it would be on General Liu. He was a typical Chinese officer. Arrogant, mercenary and an arrant coward. Two days before the Japanese army advanced on the three southern forts, two European officers in Chinese service, named Thomas and Walpole, proceeded to the forts in order to arrange the charges for exploding the guns in those forts when it was thought necessary. The chief object being of course that those guns if taken by the Japanese should not be turned on the Chinese. Thomas and Walpole entered one fort to find their offices declined, and furthermore, as was afterwards found out, at the risk of their lives. The Chinese would have nothing to do with the two Europeans or their mission. General Liu was telephoned to but gave orders that the Europeans were not to be allowed to enter the forts. Thomas and Walpole, finding their mission thwarted, proceeded to the torpedo-depot where they slept

for the night. The next morning they proceeded to Itau island which, with Clarkson, they were placed in charge of. The following day the Chinese soldiers after exchanging a few rounds with the Japanese troops decamped and left the forts for the enemy to walk into. The Japanese advanced in three divisions and the first fort to fall was Lungmuitsui fort, then Louchutsui fort and finally Chiupuitsui fort. These forts were strongly defended on the sea side but as with all Chinese forts, which redown to the credit of the European designers, they were very weak in the rear which were the points the Japanese assailed. A heroic tale is reported of Gunner Li, who was the chief gunner of the *Tingyuen*. He was told by Thomas that the Chinese would not allow any Europeans in the forts to prepare to blow up the guns and he volunteered to undertake that duty. He took the charges and said he would blow up the two twenty-eight centimetre guns, and if the Chinese soldiers would not allow him to do so he would drop a joss stick into the magazine and blow up the forts. He evidently was not allowed to blow up the guns but on the morning of the 30th the Chiupuitsui fort was blown up and he was distinguished leaving it a few minutes before. He was taken off in a torpedo-boat. The three northern forts on the mainland were likewise easily captured the Chinese soldiers decamping on the advance of the Japanese. The Japanese having taken the whole of the land forts managed to fix up some of the guns in the southern forts and commenced to fire on the Chinese fleet and Itau island. The forts formed a destroying element and between the three forts the Japanese erected two batteries. On the island of Liukungtao there were two forts each armed with four 24 centimetre guns and some small quick firing guns, the latter proving extremely useful against the torpedo-boat attacks. The soldiers on Liukungtao numbered about 2,000 men and they were commanded by General Chang. In addition there was the Chinese fleet consisting of the *Tingyuen*, *Laiyuen*, *Chingyuen*, *Pingyuen*, *Chenyuen*, *Taiyuen*, *Weiyuen*, *Kwangping*, *Kangchi*, thirteen torpedo-boats and six small alphabetical gunboats. The latter proved extremely useful in shelling the Japanese land forces. Distributed amongst the ships was a naval force of between 1,500 and 2,000 and about 3,000 soldiers occupied, or were supposed to occupy, the forts on the mainland. The fort on Itau island was armed with two disappearing English seven-inch guns, and two quick firing guns. To garrison Itau island there were at first the three Europeans, forty soldiers and twenty-five sailors. Eventually, these soldiers proving useless, Captain Sah, commander of the *Kangchi*, with thirty sailors, arrived to man the fort. This same officer displayed the greatest courage during the cannonading of the island. He worked the quick-firing guns and remained at the post from the commencement to the end of the fighting, notwithstanding that he was exposed to an almost continuous fire. The island was open to the fire of the southern forts, and as soon as the disappearing guns arose they formed a target for the fire of the three batteries. These guns had no mirrors affixed to them, and consequently the man elevating the gun had to get upon the barbette with the result that he was fired upon immediately by the forts. This was a hazardous post, yet the young sailors struck to the guns and worked with a will. On one occasion three Chinese sailors were working one of the guns exposed to a terrible fire, and Thomas called to them to quit the gun *pro. tem.* but they refused. One man was wounded in three places, the jaw, arm and leg by the bursting of a shell, yet as soon as his wounds were dressed he persisted in returning to his post to assist with his available remaining arm. The severest bombardment of Itau Island was on the 7th inst. The cookhouse was demolished by a shell burying five cooks beneath the ruins, three of whom after much trouble and danger were rescued by two sailors. The same day a shot dismounted one of the disappearing guns and all efforts to get it into position again proved fruitless. The dismounted gun also impeded the firing of the remaining gun. The officers' quarters were burnt out, a shell bursting and setting fire to them. One magazine was exploded by a shell. The fort was then exposed to an [illegible] heavy fire from the land and eventually it was decided to quit the fort which had taken so prominent a share in the fighting. On the 8th the island of Itau was evacuated, the officers and men retiring to Liukungtao. On the 7th it may be mentioned that the officers on Itau island saw the men leaving their guns in the Eastern fort of Liukungtao, but this leads up to another matter, the story of the mutiny among the men. The only damage done by the Japanese fire was to demolish the island fort. The Liukungtao forts were practically untouched and the occupants feared nothing whatever from the Japanese fleet. When the Japanese saw that they could not force an entrance or destroy the forts or the ships with the means they had on the southern side they mounted some of their guns and mortars on the northern entrance in order to shell the western fort of Liukungtao as well as to shell the Chinese fleet. The firing from these batteries was most successful. It was fearful, the ships being under a continual storm of fire from both sides. It was then that Admiral Ting exposed himself for hours on board the *Chenyuen*, the ship being in range of the forts. The *Tingyuen*, the flag-ship, was sunk on the 3th inst., at four o'clock in the morning by the Japanese torpedo boats. It was in that action that the Japanese torpedo boats were lost, one being sunk and one being captured by the Chinese, the latter being abandoned by the Japanese crew after the *Tingyuen* had sent a shot through its boiler, scalding four of the crew to death. The *Tingyuen* was only partially sunk and was used as a battery but the fire from the forts was so strong that the crew had to leave. Before doing so a charge of 250 lbs. of gun cotton was placed on board with a slow fuse which blew up and completely sank the *Tingyuen*. This ship was German built and was launched in 1882. The Japanese attack was always at night, and the crews of the Chinese men-of-war were continually aroused by these nocturnal torpedo-boat visits. The strain on both officers and men was therefore very great. The *Laiyuen*, a German built vessel, was torpedoed. She was struck on the port-side of the engine-room, and fifteen minutes afterwards she capsized. She was a sister ship to the *Kingyuen* which sunk in the Yalu fight in a similar manner. The *Chingyuen* had a shot from the Eastern Fort which pierced her port-side passing through armoured deck and through starboard bow. She sank head first. The Chinese sent a torpedo into her so that the Japanese could not raise her. On the 11th the Chinese torpedo-boats took flight in consequence of an attack being made by the Japanese fleet at closer quarters than before. The Chinese imagined that the Japanese fleet intended to make a dash for the entrance. The Chinese torpedo boats were exposed to a heavy fire from the southern forts and they made a rush to the north trying to escape.



[illegible] torpedo-boats [illegible] the Japanese fleet but were unsupported by the Chinese men-of-war and in consequence they being without the harbour tried to escape, two Japanese men-of-war giving chase. They were beached and the Japanese captured seven. Two boats the Chinese at the Liukungtao forts sunk as they were escaping. It was then that Admiral Ting daily expected that Chinese reinforcements would arrive overland, but he was doomed to disappointment. The Futai of the Province who should have helped him bolted and took his soldiers with him. Li Hung Chang, who had promised to send thousands of soldiers did not send one man. The whole thing was a fearful blunder. In fact at that time the majority of the soldiers at Chefoo had vanished. Troops were reported to be arriving in all directions, but none were ever seen. It was this knowledge of the unreliability of the Chinese military authorities that depressed Admiral Ting, although there is little doubt [illegible] those soldiers had arrived in thousands [illegible] would have been of no avail. They would [illegible] not have taken to flight on first sighting [illegible] opponents and their generals and officers [illegible] led the van. There is another feature [illegible] this business which the Chinese officers [illegible] and even "Rear-Admiral" McClure passed over. The Chinese officers [illegible] of the mutiny of the Chinese soldiers and sailors on the ships and on Liukungtao. There was with the Chinese forces [illegible] man non-commissioned officer, who had been for some years in Chinese [illegible] with the other body of Europeans, [illegible] at Chefoo and Shanghai, who had [illegible] Admiral Ting in the presence of [illegible] that "they would shed their last drop of blood for China," had decamped from Weihaiwei at the first appearance of the Japanese at Yang-shing; this officer formed one of that glorious band, who made that ignominious exodus. While the fighting was proceeding at Liukungtao, the men who had been paid double salary to serve, and had promised publicly to serve China, and who left immediately when the fighting began to localise itself, were talking over champagne like the veteran of Goldsmith's "o'er the deeds and tales of sorrow done" and in truth shouldered their baggage and showed how fields were won. this officer was one of these, but touched pockets with remorse about the 29th of January he decided to quit Chefoo for Liukungtao to "see the fun," as he said, to see after his [illegible] and effects, as said others. He arrived [illegible] only to be compelled by the Japanese advance to drop to the island. It was when Admiral Ting was receiving his severest blows [illegible] seeing his ships sink one after another [illegible] officer boarded the Chenyuen [illegible] the presence of "Rear Admiral" McClure and the Chinese naval officers suggested signal to Chinese and within the hearing of the [illegible] that Admiral Ting should [illegible] Admiral Ting declined to [illegible] position, and this [illegible] the sailors [illegible] and [illegible] mutinous [illegible] folk [illegible] around [illegible] the [illegible] a day [illegible] flag [illegible]

eastern Liukungtao fort quit their guns. The men said they had done sufficient fighting and they desired that the Admiral should capitulate. The Admiral called the sailors together and addressed them, exhorting them to do their duty. Two days more, he said, and the reinforcements would arrive to relieve them. The men refused to return to their duties and said they would board the *Kangchi* and sally forth flying a flag of truce. The Admiral threatened to shoot the first man who stirred to board the *Kangchi*. This had the desired effect, and whether from fear or respect of their Admiral the men did not leave to board the *Kangchi*. The mutineers later approached this officer and asked him to intercede for them to the Admiral, and to urge the Admiral to capitulate. He may or may not have done so but Admiral Ting again called the men together and addressed them. He told them that he had been their Admiral for many years, and many of them had been with him since they were boys, and were now petty officers. He had never "cut their pay" wrongfully or illtreated any of them, and why, therefore, would they force him to capitulate, which for him meant dishonour and death? The men continued to be obstinate and Admiral Ting sent for General Chang who was on Liukungtao. On his arrival the Admiral discussed the matter with the General and the sailors seeing the grief of the old men were touched, and the spokesmen approaching the two chiefs stated on behalf of their fellows that they would fight to the last, and it was agreed on board of each ship that the man who spoke again of capitulation should be killed. Never again during the brief term of his existence did Admiral Ting have to complain of the conduct of his men. Such was the story told by the Chinese Naval officers and confirmed by "Rear Admiral" McClure and other of the European officers. A few hours later Admiral Ting received a dispatch from Chefoo that his expected reinforcements had not arrived, but were retreating. It was then, seeing his ships disappear one after the other and Itau forts silenced, that he began to think of capitulation. It was impossible for the Chinese men-of-war to coal and they ran short of supplies. They could not approach the coaling wharf to coal owing to the fire of the forts for they would have undoubtedly been sunk. They tried to coal every evening but the torpedo boats of the enemy kept them at their posts. On the 8th of February a consultation of Chinese and European officers was held. The result was that it was decided to send a letter to the Japanese Admiral offering to capitulate. Admiral Ting agreed to sign the letter. On the 12th of Feb. *Kuangping*, commanded by Captain Cheng, left the harbour of Weihaiwei bearing an offer of surrender signed by Admiral Ting.

The purport of which was that, having fought resolutely and had his ships destroyed and his men decimated, he purposed to cease fighting, and now desired only to save lives of his men. He would, therefore, hand over all the ships, forts, and weapons of war, provided the Japanese undertook to spare the lives of his officers, men and others, foreigners included, and to allow them all to return to their native places. If this condition were accepted, he desired that the Commander-in-Chief of the British Navy should be made guarantor. This elicited the following reply: February 12th 1895: Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and to inform you that I accept the proposals which you have made to me. Accordingly I shall take possession to-morrow of all your ships, forts, and other materials of war which are left in your hands. As to the hour and other conditions, I shall be glad to make arrangments with you to-morrow at the time when I shall receive a decisive answer to

this my present letter. When the above mentioned materials of war have been delivered up to me I shall then be willing to make one of my ships conduct all the persons mentioned in your letter, including yourself, to a place convenient for both parties in perfect security. But were I to state to you my personal views and feelings I would beckon you as I had done in my last letter to come over to our side and wait in my country the termination of the present war, not only for your own safety but also for the future interest of your country. I consider it far more preferable that you should render yourself to my country where you are sure to be treated with care and attention. However, if it is your intention to rejoin your country. I leave it entirely to your choice. As to your desire to make the Admiral Commanding in Chief of the British Squadron as a guarantee on your behalf I consider it unnecessary, it is your military honour in which I place my confidence. In conclusion let me inform you that I shall be waiting for your answer to my present letter at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

(Signed) S. H. Iro,

Vice-Admiral,

Commander-in-Chief.

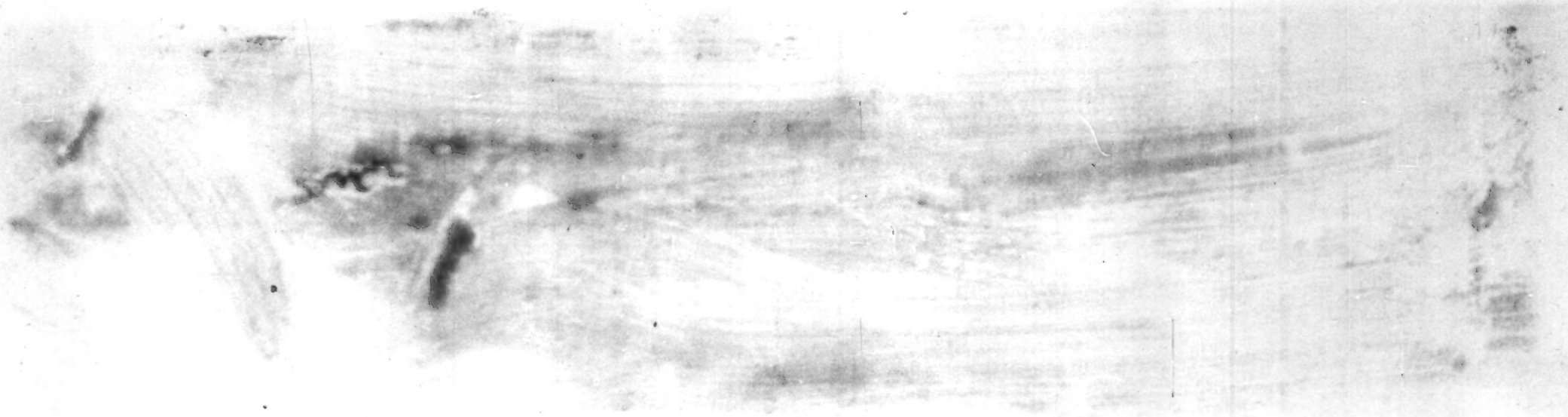
Another letter came from Admiral Ting, saying:—"I am deeply gratified for the sake of my people that you have accepted my proposal. But as there are many preparations to be made with regard to the men's packing, I should wish that the transfer of everything might be deferred until after the 16th inst." The following was the next letter from Admiral Ito:—February 13th, 1895. To the officer representing the Chinese Fleet at Weihaiwei. Sir,—I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the letter of Admiral Ting dated the 18th day of the Chinese Year. The report of the death of Admiral Ting last night came to me verbally by the messenger who brought it over, this the said letter I receive with great personal regret. As to the postponing the receiving of the forts and other materials of war until the 22nd day of the Chinese Year I am ready to comply with under conditions—this condition—that some responsible *Chinese* officer should come over to this my flagship—*Matsushima*—before 6 o'clock p.m. this day the 13th of February of Japanese Year and make arrangements with us upon several points which have to be fixed with certitude regarding the receiving of the said vessels, forts, and other materials of war as well as the escorting of the Chinese and Foreign officers and men out of Weihaiwei. In my last letter to the lamented Admiral Ting it was said as to the hour and other minor conditions I shall be glad to make arrangements with you to-morrow, and now that he is dead these minor conditions have to be arranged with somebody who can deal with us in his stead. It is my express wish that the said officer who is to come to this our flagship for the above purpose be a Chinese and not a Foreign officer and be it understood that I am willing to receive him with honour.

(Signed) S. H. Iro,

Vice-Admiral,

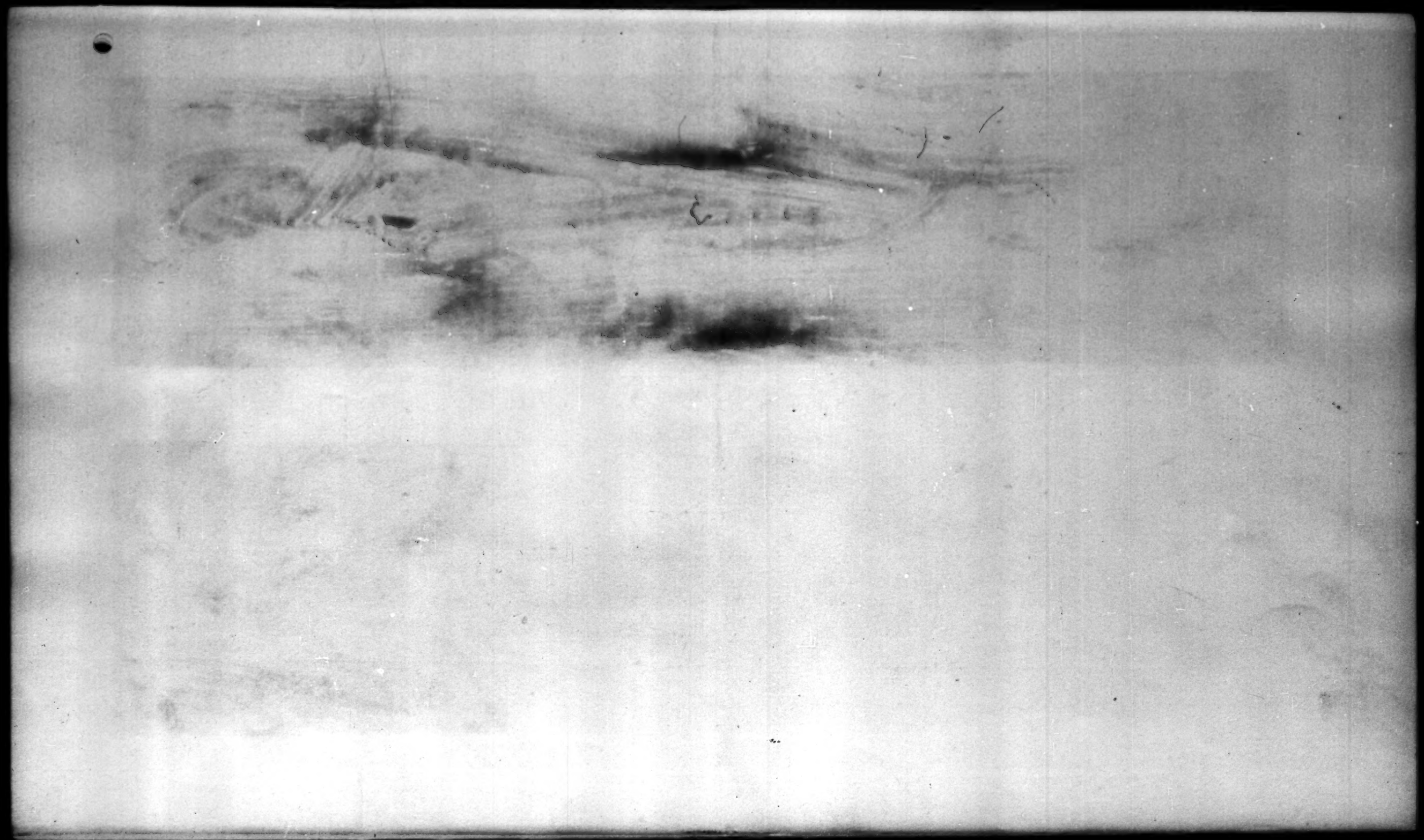
Commander-in-Chief.

On the afternoon of the 12th instant Admiral Ting seated in his house on Liukungtao poisioned himself with opuim sharing the contents of a box of opuim between himself and General Chang. Captain Yang, one of the most ablest of the Chinese Naval officers committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a revolver, whilst Commodore Liu and three other Naval officers likewise committed suicide by taking opium. Needless to say the death of Ting was greatly regretted both by the Chinese and by those Europeans with whom he had come into contact. Admiral Ting lacked the training of many of his junior officers, his knowledge of naval tactics and the many sciences that go to educate a naval commander was limited perhaps to the extreme, but he was acknowledged by all to be a liberal minded, upright and brave man. His death was regretted by his officers and men and his opponents, and perhaps not more so than by Admiral Ito himself. General Chang was of the ordinary type of the Chinese General, as far as military education went, though he apparently possessed more pluck than his interesting confrères. The officers who followed their leaders' examples in inflicting self death were all described as able and brave officers, able in the sense that they had received a thorough modern naval education. It might truly be repeated the sentence muttered at Gravelotte: "Honour those whom fortune hath deserted." Further parleying took place as to the conditions of surrender, and it was agreed that the officers both European and Chinese, and soldiers and sailors were to be landed with their private effects to a place of security convenient to both parties. A few days later the Japanese entered the harbour of Weihaiwei and took possession of the remaining ships of the Chinese fleet: the *Pingyuen, Chenyuen, Tseyuen, Kwangping* and six alphabetical gunboats. It may be mentioned that previous to this the whole of the Europeans were asked to come on board the Japanese flagship to be interviewed. With the exception of Dr. Kirk, Mr. Tyler and Mr. Schnell this request was complied with by the Europeans. The three gentlemen mentioned intended to go but missed the boat that was to take them. On arriving on board the flagship the Europeans were questioned and crossed-examined and were allowed to depart with one exception, that person being Mr. Howie, of persumably Kobe fame. He was detained and the Japanese intend to try him by Court-Martial which is rather a mild proceeding, but it is not thought that he will be shot, because it is the apparent policy of the Japanese to deal as leniently as possible with the Europeans in Chinese service. The Chinese officers were indignant concerning his detention and expressed the opinion that the Japanese did not abide with their agreement, namely that *all* Europeans should be allowed to depart to a place of safety. Furthermore this indignation is quickened by the fact that there have arrived at Chefoo from Liukungtao Chinese soldiers and sailors who have been robbed and maltreated, some severely by the Japanese soldiers. Some of these men have had their bones and limbs broken by the butts of the Japanese rifles. The Japanese presented to the Chinese the small steamer the *Kangchi* (formerly belonging to the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company) used as a torpedo training ship, to convey to Chefoo the bodies of the Admiral, General and officers, and also to convey the Europeans and Chinese officers.



Before the Chinese removed Admiral Ting's body. Several prominent Japanese desired to see it, to pay their last respects to their deceased opponent. They entered the room where the coffin was lying with bared heads, and standing beside the coffin muttered a few words as if in prayer. Needless to say this created a deep impression on the Chinese officers who were watching. On Monday last the *Kangchi* arrived off Chefoo and anchored off the Bluff the weather being very rough. It was decided by the European officers that when the bodies were brought ashore the various foreign men-of-war in port should furnish guards of honour. The time fixed for the arrival of the remains at the Custom's jetty was eleven o'clock the following morning. The coffins were brought ashore, however, at half past ten with the consequence that the guards of honour who had been ordered to assemble at eleven were not all present. The only guard of honour present was that of the British marines, and these happened to arrive in English fashion half an hour before the appointed time. It is said that Nelson won his battles by being half an hour before time. The American, German, French and Russian marines were all ordered to be present. The body of the Admiral with the other bodies later in the day were conveyed to the military yamên, where a Chinese guard of honour received it, the Chinese soldiers firing a minute salute with ball cartridge. At the head of the coffins was placed a table with the usual array of Chinese delicacies, and about a dozen male mourners chanted a Buddist air, led by three musicians. The body of Ting will remain at the yamên until his son arrives, and he will convey the remains to his father's birthplace, Anhui, near Wuhu, where they will be interred. The Europeans headed by "Rear-Admiral" McClure are now staying at Chefoo, and they will proceed to Tientsin when the ice at Taku breaks up. Before they were permitted to leave Liukungtao they each gave a pledge to the Japanese that they would not again take up arms in Chinese service against the Japanese. The Europeans with a few exceptions do not appear to have come out of the affair very strikingly. Tyler, Thomas, Clarkson and Walpole, who had been formerly in the British Navy, undoubtedly did a deal of work, and they were the men with the exception of Tyler and Clarkson, who tried to blow up the guns in the land forts. "Rear Admiral" McClure was of course in actual fighting a mere nonentity. Admiral Ting did the actual work and the only command that McClure had was the taking of the *Kangchi* from the harbour on the departure of his Admiral's remains. Of course, it was never anticipated that McClure with half of his Europeans would ever be of the slightest use in actual fighting, for they had no knowledge of gunnery, or naval tactics, and were as much out of place on an ironclad as "Rear Admiral" McClure was at home on a tug-boat. They formed objects of amusement to some of the trained Chinese naval officers, and these same officers state that "Rear-Admiral" and a few of his "men" were not always in a condition to do any fighting if they had desired. Much praise has been bestowed on Mr. Howard and Dr. Kirk. Neither of them were fighting men nor pretended to be, and the former was a sufferer from rheumatism during the attack. Yet it is said that when any repairing was to be done to the guns or ships, and repairs that he could possibly do, he undertook the task personally at considerable danger to himself.

Dr. Kirk of course looked after the wounded of whom there were many. The loss of the Chinese judging from all reports is not many. With one exception the crews of all the ships were saved, and although the fire from the forts was most severe the casualties amongst the Chinese were not great. About fifty were killed during the whole of the fighting on Liukungtau and about two hundred wounded. A few were killed on Itau island and about fifty wounded. The fatalities on the ships were not many, though many were wounded. The naval officers at Chefoo stand in constant dread of a telegram being received from Peking ordering them to be decapitated, though they unanimously express the intention of shooting themselves rather then meet a degrading death at the hands of the executioner. It is anticipated that the Japanese will either proceed overland to the Grand Canal or re-embark and land south of the Taku Forts, taking those forts from the rear—and then—a march triumphant on Peking. A sketch of Weihaiwei is issued as a Supplement with to-night's paper, to enable our readers to form an idea of the place.



2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 26 1895
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1895
Secretary of State.
APR 25 1895

No 2161

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
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Legation of the United States,

Peking, March 13, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 26 1895

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Correspondence between Admirals Ito and Ting.

Synopsis:

Ting desires only to save his men. Refuses personal offers. Commits suicide.

One enclosure.

No 2161.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 13, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
1/2161 enclose a clipping from
the Shanghai Mercury of
the first instant, being
the correspondence between
the Chinese and Japanese
Admirals at Weihaiwei.
The letter of Admiral I to
is notable as it foreshadows
the intention of Japan
to

to undertake to reform the Chinese Government. He asserts that China owes her distress to the fact that the Government has been entrusted to the literati, and, speaking of Japan he says: "She owes her preservation and her integrity to-day wholly to the fact that she then broke away from the old, and attached herself to the new." He urges Admiral Ting to come to Japan and in this regard cites some historical examples. The Admiral Ting answers with heroic simplicity: "I am

are minded to give up the contest in order to save the lives of my people." In his second letter the Admiral returns some presents that the Japanese Admiral had sent him because "the state of war existing between our countries makes it difficult for me to receive them"; asks for a slight delay in the date of the surrender, concluding: "I pledge my good faith in the matter." In this letter Admiral Ting makes no allusion to his own future, but says again: "Your answer just

just received gives me
much satisfaction on
account of the lives of
my men."
On receipt of this letter
Admiral I to writes: "I
learned verbally from its
bearer that Admiral Ting
had killed himself. The
information caused me
profound pain".
It seems to me that in
the discussion between
the two Admirals the
Chinese bears off the palm
of heroism.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Clipping from the Shanghai Mercury, March 1st, 1895.

...RESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE ...HINESE AND JAPANESE ADMIRALS.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes the correspondence between Admiral Ting and Admiral Ito with reference to the surrender at Weihaiwei. The gist of the letters have already been made known to the public, but as the documents will occupy a place in history, we think it desirable to reproduce them in full:—

LETTER No. 1.—FROM ADMIRAL ITO TO ADMIRAL TING.

I have the honour to address this letter to your Excellency. The vicissitudes of the time have made us enemies. It is a misfortune. Yet it is our countries that are at war. There need be no hostility between individuals. The friendship that formerly existed between you and me is as warm as ever to-day. Let it not be supposed that in writing this letter I am actuated by any idle pupose of urging you to surrender. The actors in great affairs often err; the onlookers see the truth. Instead of calmly deliberating what course of procedure on his own part is best for his country, best for himself, a man sometimes allows himself to be swayed by the task in which he is actually engaged and takes a mistaken view. Is it not then the duty of his friends to advise him and turn his thought into the right channel? I address myself to you from motives of genuine friendship, and I pray you to appreciate them. What is the origin of the repeated disasters that have befallen the Chinese arms? There is I think, little difficulty in discovering the true reason if one look for it calmly and intelligently. Your discernment has doubtless shown you the cause. It is not the fault of one man that has brought China into the position she now occupies. The blame rests with the errors of of the Government that has long administered affairs. She selecherts her servants by competitive examination, and literary, attainments are the test. Thus it results that the officials, the repositories of administrative power are all literati, and literature is honoured above everything. Her practice in this respect is as uniform to-day as it was a thousand years ago. It is not necessarily a defective system, nor does it necessarily produce a bad government But a country can never preserve its independence in practice by such means. For you know well what troubles Japan had to encounter thirty years ago, what evils she had to surmount. She owes her preservation and her integrity today wholly to the fact that she then broke away from the old and attached herself to the new. In the case of your country also that must be the cardinal course at present. If you adopt it, I venture to say that you are safe. If you reject it, you can not escape destruction. In a contest with Japan it has long been fated that you should witness results such as are now before you. Can it be the duty of faithful subjects of the empire, men really solicitous for its welfare, to swim idly with tide now sweeping over the country by the decree of an ancient fate, making no effort to stem it? A country with a history running back thousands of years, and territories stretcheng tens of thousands of miles, the oldest empire in the world—can it be an easy task to accomplish for such a country a work of restoration re-placing its foundation on a permanently solid basis? A single pillar can not prevent the fall of a edifice. Is there any latitude for choice between the impossible and the disadvantageous? To hand over squadron to the foe, to surrender a whole army to an enemy—these are mere bagatelles compared with fate of a country. By whatever reputation a Japanese soldier possesses in the eyes of the world, I vow that I believe your wisest course is to come to Japan and wait there until the fortunes of your country are again in the ascendant, and until the time arrives when your service will be again needed. Hear these words of your true friend. Need I remind your that the annals of your country contain many names of men who have removed a stain from their names and lived to perform great deeds?

MacMahon of France, having surrendered and passed over into the enemy's country, came back after a time and assisted in reforming the French Administration, the French not only forgetting his disgrace but even elevating him to the post of President. Similarly Osman Pasha, after losing the fortifications at Plevna and being himself captured, came home to Turkey, where he rose to be Minister of War, and acquired a high reputation in connection with his military reforms. If you came to Japan, I can assure you of the good treatment you will receive and the Emperor's favour. Not alone has His Majesty pardoned subjects of his own that raised the standard of rebellion, but he has rewarded their talents by elevating them to positions of high trust, as in the case of Admiral Yenomoto, now a member of the Cabinet, and Otori Keisuke, a councillor of State. There are many such instances. In the case of men of note that are not his Majesty's subjects, his magnanimous treatment of them would certainly be even more marked. The great question that you have now to determine is whether you will throw in your lot with a country that you see falling to to ruin, and be involved in a result inevitable under unchanged administrative circumstances, or whether you will preserve the strength that remains to you and evolve another plan hereafter. It has generally been the habit of warriors of your country in use haughty and rough language in addressing their foes, but I address this letter in you from motives of pure friendship, and I intreat you to credit my sincerity. If happly, reading these words, you accept my counsel, I will with your permission address some further remarks to you on the subject of giving practical effect to the idea.

(Signed) ITO YUKO, &c.

LETTER No. 1—FROM ADMIRAL TING TO ADMIRAL ITO.

I received the letter of suggestions addressed to me by the officer in command at Sasebo (evidently a mistake for the officer commanding the united squadrons) but did not reply because our countries were at war. Now, however, having fought resolutely, having had my ships sunk and my men decimated, I am minded to give up the contest, and to ask for a cessation of hostilities in order to save the lives of my people. I will surrender to Japan the ships of war now in Weihaiwei harbour, together with the Liukung Island forts and the armament, provided that my request be complied with, namely, that the lives of all persons connected with the army and navy, Chinese and foreign, be uninjured, and that they be allowed to return to their homes. If this be acceded to, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Naval Squadron will become guarantor. I submit this proposal, and shall be glad to have a speedy reply.

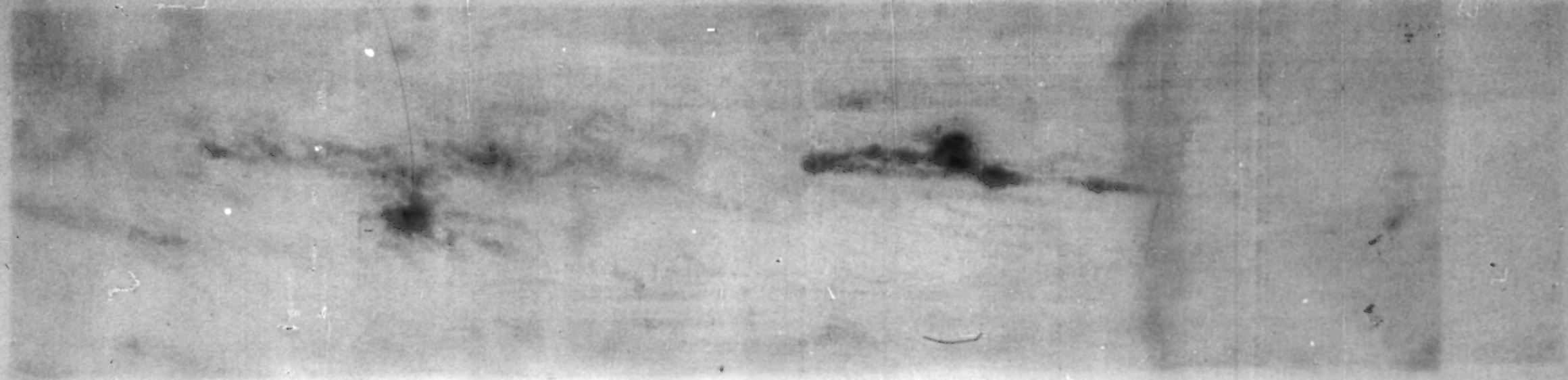
(Signed) TING ZHUCHANG, *Tituh* of the Peiyang Fleet.

(Dated) 18th day of the 1st month of the 22nd year of Kwang-su. (February 12th, 1895).

To His Excellency ITO, Commander-in Chief of the Squadron.

LETTER No 2—FROM ADMIRAL ITO TO ADMIBAL TING.

I have received your letter and noted its contents. To-morrow I am prepared to take over the ships, forts, and all the other material of war in your possession. With regard to the hour and other particulars, I shall be glad to consult with you when I receive a definite reply to this communication. When the transfer of everything has been concluded, I shall detail one of our ships of war to escort all the persons indicated in your despatch to a place convenient to both parties. But I desire to offer an expression of opinion on one point. As I had the honour to advise in my recent communications, I venture to think that for the sake of your own security and in the future interests of your country, it would be best that you should come to Japan and remain there until this war is over. If you decide to adopt that course, I offer you the strongest assurance that you shall be treated with every consideration and shall receive the fullest protection. But if you prefer to return to your own country, your wishes shall be respected. With reference to the suggestion that the British Naval Commander-in-chief will act as guarantor of this arrangement, I think such a precantion wholly unnecessary. I place implicit reliance on your assurances as an officer.



I trust that I shall receive a reply to this letter by [illegible] to-morrow morning.

[illegible] Ito Hoxo, Commander-in-Chief of the Squadron.

[illegible] H.I.J.M.S. *Matsushima*.

(Dated) [illegible] February 11th.

To H.E. [illegible]ang, Commander-in-Chief of the Peiyang Squadron.

Letter No 2.—From Admiral Ting to Admiral Ito.

Your answer, just received, gives me much satisfaction on account of the lives of my men. I have also to express gratitude for the things you have sent me, but as the state of war existing between our countries makes it difficult for me to receive them, I beg to return them here with, though I thank you for the thought. Your letter states that the arms, forts, and ships should be handed over to-morrow, but that leaves us a very brief interval at our disposal. Some time is needed for the military and naval folk to exchange their uniforms for travelling garments, and it would be difficult to conform with the date named by you. I therefore beg that you will extend the period, and enter the harbour from the 22nd day of this month, according to the Chinese calender (the 2nd of February), appointing a day for taking over the Liukung forts, the armament, and the ships now remaining. I pledge my good faith in the matter.

(Signed) Ting Zhuchang,

18th day of the 1st month (Feb. 12th).

To H.E. Ito, Commander-in-Chief, &c.

Returned with the above three parcels of articles.

Letter No 3.—From Admiral Ito to the Officer Commanding the Peiyang Squadron.

On receipt of Admiral Ting Zonchang's despatch, dated the 18th day of the 1st month, Chinese calender (12th February) I learned verbally from the bearer that Admiral Ting had killed himself. This information has caused me profound pain. With regard to the transfer of the ships, forts, armament, the late Admiral Ting requested that the same be deferred until the 1st day of the 2nd Chinese month (the 16th of February), and to on the following conditions: [illegible] responsible Chinese officers [illegible] by 6 p.m. to-day. (February [illegible] purpose of entering into a [illegible] the handing over of [illegible] weapons of war, and [illegible] and Foreigners in [illegible] letter to the late Admiral Ting [illegible] wish to meet him, on [illegible] result about the hour of [illegible]. I now desire to settle [illegible] with some Chinese [illegible] but I wish to state distinctly that [illegible] coming to my ship for the purpose [illegible] Chinese officer, not a foreigner. If [illegible] officer, he may count on being [illegible] ed.

(Signed) [illegible] mander-in-Chief, &c.

[illegible] Commanding the Peiyang Squadron.

The question of taking over the ships, forts, and military weapons at Weihaiwei was completed on the 17th. We read in the Shanghai press that the *Naniwa* and *Takachiho* were posted at the western entrance where they passed out, after due examination, 700 sailors and non combatants in 9 small steamers, all of which headed for Chefoo. The troops on Liukung island were carried over to the mainland, and there released, but Messrs. Howie and Wilde, who after giving their parole not to serve against Japan, were found in the forts, did not receive their freedom; they were carried prisoners on board the flag-

On the forenoon of the 17th. over twenty Japanese men-of-war, headed by the *Yamato*, together with a number of transports, entered Weihaiwei harbour from the West and anchored. On the Liukung forts and the 10 captured Chinese ships the Japanese flag was hoisted, and at 1 p.m. the crews of all the vessels, by preconcerted arrangement, gave three cheers for the Emperor. The *Kwang-chi* alone continued to fly the Chinese flag. She had on board the Chinese officers, who were soon to proceed in her to some convenient place. The *Chen-yuen* is to go first to Port Arthur, and the *Ping-yuen*, *Tsi-yuen*, and *Kwang-ping* to Sasebo. The destimation of the rest is not certain. The *Chen-yuen* has many marks of Japanese shot—on her funnel alone. On deck she had more than a hundred sand-bags to keep off shells. Five of the enemy's ships are sunk in the harbour. Near the eastern entrance is the *Ting-yuen*, her funnel smashed completely, and only her deck and 2 masts above water. Of the *Wei-yuen* her three masts alone can be seen. In front of her lies the *Lai-yuen*, turned upside down, a portion of her keel being above water. In the middle of the harbour the two funnels and two masts of the *Tsi-yuen* are visible above the water, but the gun-boat sunk can not be seen at all. The Japanese torpedo-boat that was lost lies close to the shore off Liukung Island. She is the celebrated No. 9. At 4 p.m. when the place was entirely in Japanese occupation, the ships of the First Flying Squadron raised their anchors, and left the fort. The crews of the rest set themselves to make repairs and preparations for some other big enterprise.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

No. 2162.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, March 13, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 19 1895

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Official Japanese documents relating thereto.

One enclosure.

No 2162.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 13, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
1/2162 enclose a clipping from
the North China News of
the twentieth ultimo being
official Documents
relating to the recent
negotiations for peace.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Clipping from North China News, February 20, 1895.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

The following are some of the official documents read by Mr. Hayashi, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the House of Representatives at Hiroshima, as published by the *Japan Herald*.

THE POWERS OF THE CHINESE ENVOYS.

"We hereby appoint you, Chang Yen-hsuan, (here follow his official titles) and Shao Yuen-lien (official titles), to be Our Plenipotentiaries to meet and negotiate with the Plenipotentiaries appointed by Japan. You shall, however, telegraph to the Tsungli Yamên to obtain instructions by which you will abide. The officials who follow are placed under your control. You shall carry out your mission diligently and faithfully so as to fulfil Our trust We have placed in you. Respect this.

VISCOUNT MUTSU'S ENQUIRIES AS TO NATURE OF CHINESE CREDENTIALS.

The credentials which the Imperial Japanese Ministers Plenipotentiary have just showed the Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extraordinary of Great China include all the powers granted to Ministers Plenipotentiary by His Majesty the Emperor of Great Japan, necessary for the conclusion of a treaty of peace. Being desirous to avoid any future misunderstanding, and in consideration of the purpose, the Imperial Japanese Ministers Plenipotentiary request the Ministers and Envoys Plenipotentiary of China to reply in writing whether the credentials shown by them to the Imperial Japanese Ministers Plenipotentiary which they have not yet fully examined, include all the powers necessary for the conclusion of a treaty of peace.

At Hiroshima, 1st February, 28th year of Meiji.

REPLY OF THE CHINESE ENVOYS.

We, the undersigned, have had the honour to see your Commission from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, and your letter on the 7th day of the first month of the 21st year of Kwang-su, given personally, and have been requested to reply in an official note as to the extent of powers given us by our Emperor, The Commission given us by our Emperor for coming to your country as Envoys has been exchanged with you. We, the undersigned, have been given full powers for the negotiation and conclusion of terms of peace, with the authority to negotiate on terms and sign them. In order to ensure more prompt execution of the treaty terms in the negotiations we shall telegraph for the Imperial sanction of the terms, and fix the date for our signature, after which the same shall be taken to China for examination by His Majesty the Emperor of China, and being found proper, and in good form will be ratified in due course.

8th day of the 1st month of the 21st year of Kwang-su.

COUNT ITO'S ADDRESS TO THE CHINESE ENVOYS.

The message which I am now going to take with my colleague have been the result logically necessitated, and the responsibility does not lie with us.

China has almost entirely secluded herself from the rest of the world, and although at times she has been the recipient of advantages accruing from her being in the comity of nations, she has often disregarded the duties arising in her intercourse with them. China has all along made seclusion and confusion her policy, so it is but reasonable that in her diplomatic relations she should be devoid of sincerity and justice, which are requisite in the way of [illegible]

Precedents are not wanting where the Envoy Extraordinary of the Chinese Court has refused to sign diplomatic contracts after such person had openly expressed his agreement to them, or of vaguely discarding without any valid reason the treaty which has been solemnly contracted. By referring to these precedents it has been seen that the Chinese Court has had no sincerity to abide by that treaty, and that the Envoys who contracted that treaty had not the necessary right given them.

Accordingly the Imperial Government having been warned by previous facts had made it one of the conditions on opening negotiations for peace that the Chinese Envoys should be invested with plenary powers for contracting such a treaty from the decision to avoid negotiating with Chinese Envoys who have literally not been given full powers. Being made sure that the Chinese Court had abided by these conditions and that Plenipotentiaries had been sent out to this country, the Emperor of Great Japan has given me and my colleague full powers to contract a treaty of peace with the Chinese Plenipotentiaries and to sign it.

The fact that the authorised power of Your Excellencies is very imperfect, irrespective of the guarantee of the Chinese Court, may be taken as granted that the Chinese Court is not yet sincere in its wishes for peace. The credentials of the full powers of both parties exchanged in this room yesterday would show at a glance the difference between them so that no remark is needed on it. Yet it is not out of place to point it out here. As it is, one corresponds to the meaning of plenary powers in usage in civilised countries, while in the other, almost all the necessary provisions for the authorisation of full powers are defective. In addition to that, the credentials brought with Your Excellencies do not specify the matters on which you are to negotiate, nor do they give power to contract anything, while there is not a word said as to the subsequent ratification of Your Excellencies' act by the Emperor of China. In short, it must be said that the powers vested in Your Excellencies are limited to report to your Government what I and my colleague have to say. When it has come to this, we cannot any longer continue our negotiations.

It may be argued that the present mission is in no way opposed to the usage hitherto pursued.

I cannot be satisfied with such an explanation, I have nothing to say as to the internal usages of China. But I believe it my right as well as my duty to insist upon that in diplomatic matters that have relation with our country, the special customs of China must be ruled and controlled by diplomatic principles.

The restoration of peace is a very important and grave matter, and if now friendly relations are wished to be re-established, not only is there a necessity of contracting a treaty with this in view, but there must also be sincerity to carry it out.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

No 2163.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 13, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
RECD.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 19 1895

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject:
Capture of Weihaiwei.

Synopsis:
An account thereof enclosed.

One enclosure.

No. 2163.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 13, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
1/2163 enclose a clipping from
the North China News of
the twenty seventh ultimo,
being an account of the
capture of Weihaiwei.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

List of Inclosures.

1. Clipping from North China News. February 27th, 1895.

THE CAPTURE OF WEIHAIWEI.

AN ACCOUNT BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

Until the present it has been a matter of considerable difficulty, if not an impossibility, to obtain anything like a connected and independent narrative of the capture of Weihaiwei, but we are now, thanks to the courtesy of an eye-witness, able to present an unbiassed account of an occurrence which undoubtedly reflects the greatest credit upon the Japanese arms. The wonderful story—for such it certainly is—of the fall before an army of some 20,000 men of a series of forts which should have been capable of prolonged resistance, is an interesting one, and in the study of the methods by which the event was brought about a very striking object lesson is afforded in the art of war. Providence has hitherto proverbially been on the side of the big battalions; but in the present case success leaned wholly to the troops trained to a high state of perfection, and cared for by a commissariat and transport service of unsuspected excellence. The foreigners who were privileged in their official capacities to accompany the Japanese troops in the assault upon Weihaiwei and to watch the operations cannot speak too highly of the spirit animating officers and men, and the smoothness and regularity with which everything worked. Despite the intense cold, the soldiers did not suffer in the least from frost-bites, and this fact is to be attributed to the liberal provision made for their clothing, as well as to their natural adaptability to circumstances. With these few general observations we may turn to the recital of events.

The Japanese landed at Yungcheng Bay, about thirty miles to the east of Weihaiwei, at dawn on the 20th of January. The army consisted of 20,000 men, accompanied by 10,000 coolies, of whom about 800 were Chinese from Kinchow. These latter cheerfully performed service as, coming from another part of the country, they had no sympathies with the defenders. The entire force had assembled on the 19th of January in fifty transports in Talienwan Bay. The second division of the army left Talienwan under the command of Lieut.-General Sakuma, the fleet and transports being provided with every convenience for landing men. When the Japanese landed in Yungcheng Bay, between 300 to 400 Chinese infantry, with four field guns were encountered. These were driven off by the gunboats of the escort fleet and a landing party of bluejackets, the guns falling into the hands of the attacking force. The landing was conducted by a committee of officers. On the evening of the same day the whole of the second division was landed, one regiment being sent to Yungcheng — in which some Chinese wounded and the inhabitants were found. The town has a population of about 10,000 or 15,000, it is walled, but quite undefended save for some old sixteenth century petronels.

On the 22nd the remainder of the army left Talienwan, and the landing was completed by the 23rd. The army then moved towards Weihaiwei in two parts, the second division going by the southern road, and the eleventh brigade going by the northern road. Several villages were occupied during the advance. Each night the Japanese would be attacked by the Chinese, who were always repulsed, some retreating towards Weihaiwei and some towards Wentang. These Chinese troops had evidently been sent out from Weihaiwei, the forts of which were also joining in the defence. During the advance the water in the wells was found to be very bad, and some fifteen to twenty cases of dysentery occurred through the Japanese soldiers incautiously drinking it. The weather was intensely cold and the army had to bivouack in the snow, the accommodation in the houses vacated by the fleeing villagers being insufficient.

This state of things continued until the night of the 29th, when the army was encamped south of the hills some nine miles from the eastern forts. The Japanese attack began on the morning of the 30th. The left of the army advanced against the left of the Chinese posted on the first ridge of hills, the Chinese having two field guns. At 6.50 a.m. the Chinese opened fire at extreme range, but began to retire in about an hour, before the steady advance of the Japanese. The latter reached the first ridge of hills at about nine o'clock, the Chinese falling back to the second line. Here they made a stand above the forts with four field guns, but the Japanese advancing at the double drove the Chinese away in disorder, some retreating towards Weihaiwei and others into the sea forts. The right attack of the Japanese opened at four o'clock in the morning, and at daylight the troops were a mile from the easternmost forts of the southern defences. At seven o'clock heavy fire was opened by the Chinese from their forts, but the Japanese, taking advantage of the ground, did not suffer much. In rear of the sea forts were two land forts, but the Japanese taking the latter at about eight o'clock the Chinese retreated to the sea. Then the Japanese advanced and took the forts to the west by assault. After capturing the land forts the Japanese advanced on the sea forts, one of which blew up, and the rest were evacuated by the Chinese, after slight resistance. General Odera, commanding this right attack, was killed by a shell. The eastern forts were then completely invested by the Japanese, and some little time after they began to engage the two outer forts on the island of Liukungtao, and three Chinese ships. This went on for five hours, with little loss to the Japanese. The army having successfully accomplished so much remained in its quarters, though some troops were sent forward towards Weihaiwei.

On the 2nd of February the western forts, the guns of which had previously been disabled by Admiral Ting's orders, were taken without resistance. On the 7th a combined attack by the Japanese fleet and army was made on the small island fort, as well as on Liukungtao. It began at 7.50 in the morning and continued with great vigour for an hour, when the small island fort was blown up, whilst still occupied by the Chinese. Nothing more was done during that day. From the capture of the eastern forts until the surrender desultory bombarding went on from day to day from the Japanese fleet and the forts, without material effect. On the 11th a Chinese gun-boat came out with a flag of truce, and the result of the parleying was that the Chinese surrendered four ships and six gun-boats as well as the island. Prior to this, on the 7th, thirteen Chinese torpedo boats put to sea by the western entrance, but they were all captured or sunk by the Japanese. In the two torpedo attacks made on the nights of the 4th and 5th the *Tingyuen*, *Laiyuen*, *Weiyuen* and one gunboat were torpedoed and on the day of the combined attack the *Chingyuen* was sunk by gun fire.

It is interesting to note the considerate treatment accorded to the prisoners by the Japanese after the surrender. The foreigners, thirteen in number, were sent away in a Chinese despatch vessel to Chefoo with the wounded; the women and children being sent south in a transport. The 6,000 men on the island (4,000 soldiers and 2,000 sailors) were disarmed and landed on the mainland. They were allowed to take away all their effects, including such things as pet birds, etc. Some of the officers had ponies, and there were even two European carriages, filled with all sorts of gear. Japanese coolies were employed to assist the Chinese soldiers in transporting their possessions, and before being set free the soldiers were provided with two days' rations.

When the Japanese came to examine the forts they were found to be practically undamaged. The splendid construction of the forts excited general admiration, and it was pretty evident that but for incipient mutiny and scarcity of provisions they could have held out indefinitely. The suicide of Admiral Ting, three other naval officers, and two Generals, when the surrender was decided upon, was generally regretted and found expression even amidst the rejoicings after the great victory.

The foreigners who had the [illegible] experience of watching the Japanese operations were Capt. Du Bouley, the French Military *Attaché*, Brigade Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Taylour, of the Army Medical Department, Lieut. Ogilvie, acting as British Naval *Attaché* Capt. O'Brien, American *Attaché*, Col. Wogack, Russian *Attaché*, and Vicomte de Lobi, French *Attaché*. They received every consideration and facility from the Japanese authorities, and it is evident that the mode of conducting the Japanese operations made great impression upon these experts. The spirit animating the troops is described as marvellous to a degree. The discipline was perfect, and the absence of all noise or excitement made it difficult to imagine that one was in the midst of an army of 20,000 men. The cold was intense, the thermometer on some days registering 9° Fahr., yet there was a complete absence of frost-bites. The needs of the men had been provided for most thoroughly, and thanks to blankets and great coats, and a well planned kit, the men were able to defy the bitter weather. The soldiers wore shoes and gaiters as foot-covering, but the coolies adhered to the orthodox straw-sandal. During the three weeks' operations not more than fifty men were in hospital, other than those suffering from wounds.

In conclusion high praise must be awarded the Japanese for the humanity which characterised their relations with the unfortunate inhabitants of the villages through which they passed. There was nothing like looting or outrage, and frequently, when the Japanese had taken up their quarters in the deserted houses on the march the natives returned before the army left.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State
MAR 18 1895

From Pekin, March 15, 1895.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
MAR 19 1895

Confirmed 20 Mch Gr.m

Gresham,

Washington.

Li Hung Chang left Taku for Shimonoseki this morning. Foster, Pethick accompanied him. He will reach Shimoneseki eighteenth. Sails under German flag, two steamers. He takes hundred thirty-three people. Wants to live on steamers at Shemonoseki.

Denby.

William N. Pethick formerly U.S. Vice Consul at Tien Tsin.

E/R

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
APR 19 1895

No. 2164.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 15, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State,

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
APR 19 1895

Subject:

Peace negotiations.

Synopsis:

Li Hung-chang's departure for Shimonoseki.

No. 2165.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 15, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to append on the overleaf a translation of my cipher telegram to you of this date, relating to the departure of Li Hung-chang for Shimonoseki.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby

Translation

[Telegram sent in cipher]

March 15, 1895.

Gresham,

Washington.

March fifteenth. Li Hung-chang left Taku for Shimonoseki this morning. Foster, Patrick accompanied him. He will reach Shimonoseki eighteenth. Sails under German flag - two steamers. Taker hundred and thirty three people. Wants to live on steamers at Shimonoseki.

Denby.

Ready for File
One copy to Hydrographic Bureau
Navy Dept.
One to Treasury for Light House Board.
April 19/95

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
APR 18 1895

No. 2165.

Legation of the United States,

Peking, March 16, 1895.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 18 1895
DEPT. OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject:

Light Houses etc.

Synopsis:

List for 1895 enclosed.

No. 2165.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, March 16, 1895.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to send to you under separate cover two copies of "List of the Chinese Light Houses, Light-Vessels, Buoys and Beacons for 1895," issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Denby